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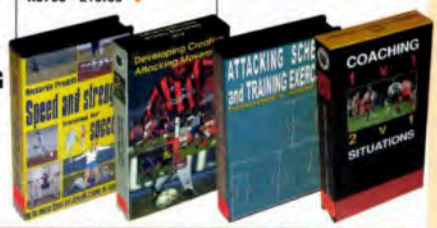

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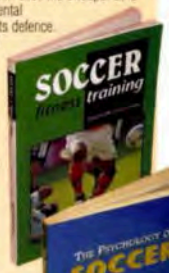

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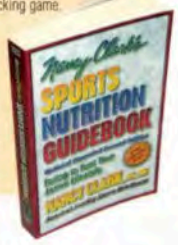

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Contents

December 1999

Welcome to a very special edition of *World Soccer*. Our last issue of the century is a fitting time to stop and take stock. As football hurtles towards the new millennium, fulled by billion-pound TV contracts, it is so easy to forget just how much the game has changed through the decades. This month, we try to redress the balance a little by remembering the personalities and events that have shaped a century of soccer.

We could never claim to do justice to 100 years of football in one issue (even with extra pages paid for by our one-off cover price rise). Instead, we offer a personal selection from our correspondents, headed by Brian Glanville, whose review of the century starts on page 18.

The results of your votes for Player of the Century are published on page 12. The winner will not surprise anybody, but some of the names in the top 100 will raise a few eyebrows.

The new millennium brings a new competition, the World Club Championship, in January 2000. Next month, we'll bring you the ultimate tournament preview. See you then.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipc.co.uk)

18

WORLD SOCCER'S CENTURY OF SOCCER

12 Top 100 players of all time
Results of our reader poll

66 Personal memories
Favourite players and most memorable matches

18 Glanville's century
One hundred years of football reviewed by *World Soccer*'s columnist

66

REGULARS

Keir Radnedge 4
Libero 6
World Service 83
Brian Glanville 128

WORLD NEWS

Italy 100
Spain 102
Germany 104
France 104
England 106
Western Europe 108
Scandinavia 110
Eastern Europe 114
South America 116
North/Central America 119
Africa 120
Asia 122

Pro-files

101 Sinisa Mihajlovic
103 Gaizka Mendieta
105 Laurent Robert
107 Mickael Silvestre
109 Bert Konterman
111 John Jensen
113 Grigoris Georgatos
115 Alexei Smertin
117 Diego Gavilan & Carlos Humberto Paredes
121 Mutiu Adepoju

101

Keir Radnedge
Executive Editor
COMMENTARY

Welcome to the next crisis

'In the next century, TV will get tired of soccer and find a new toy'

THE END of a century, the end of a millennium…the beginning of the end of soccer as we have known it?

World Soccer was launched in October 1960, when the football world was a different place. Younger readers might not recognise it as the same game if they were to be transported back.

Heavy brown leather footballs. Open-to-the-rain terracing in utilitarian grounds. A five-year-old competition called the European Cup run from faraway Switzerland; nobody knew, only two years after the Munich air disaster, whether it was worth the risk of travelling.

A World Cup with 16 nations, so small that it could be staged in countries such as Chile, Sweden and Switzerland. Black and white television with, in Britain, Kenneth Wolstenholme as the only voice of football. Plans for a football highlights TV programme late on a Saturday evening, running for just under half an hour.

No live League matches. Few live internationals – except, oddly, on a Sunday afternoon when the BBC occasionally screened friendly-match gems from Austria or Italy, matches which provided the revolutionary sight of substitutions, albeit only one per team and that permitted only up until the 43rd minute.

Striking a blow for women…Nelly Viennot

In the early 1960s English football was going through a crisis of confidence provoked by the two thrashings by Hungary, in 1953 and 1954, and the sight of Real Madrid running rampant at Hampden Park against Eintracht Frankfurt in the 1960 European Cup Final. Funny that only a few years later England were winning the World Cup.

Go further back – as we have done in this special issue – right back to what seems, by comparison with *World Soccer's* birthdate, to be the very dawn of time. In 1900 Bury beat Southampton 4-0 in the FA Cup Final and Aston Villa won the championship.

So what will the next century bring? One thing is for certain: a crisis. TV will grow tired of soccer and find a new toy. The financial rocks on which the multi-million game presently rests will crumble. Youth policies will come back into favour. Technique will continue to play second fiddle to physical fitness. Very slowly, technological assistance will creep into the game; the public will demand it.

The standard of refereeing will rise (!) as more women come up through the ranks – like France's Nelly Viennot from Poitiers, who was fourth official at the recent Champions League tie between Molde and Real Madrid.

I can't say I foresee mixed football by the end of next century. But, looking back at the huge changes in soccer in the 20th century, I wouldn't bet against it, either.

Portugal sink Spanish armada

CONGRATULATIONS, Portugal. UEFA took a remarkable step out of its conservative, grey-suited, establishment character when it decided that the Portuguese should host the 2004 European Championship finals.

The margin of victory was far beyond anything that even the Portuguese had dreamed of. Only a handful of votes from the European Championship committee went the way of favourites Spain. The Austria-Hungary bid, the most fascinating but most unlikely, received not one vote.

There were various reasons for Portugal's triumph over Spain. First, the Portuguese bid leader, Carlos Cruz, a TV chat show host turned producer, waged a most effective campaign whose energy reflected enormous enthusiasm but fell diplomatically just short of aggression.

Secondly, Spain were staggeringly complacent. Federation president Angel Villar took as big a beating as in some of his less successful playing days with Athletic Bilbao. The Spanish relied on Villar's status as a senior executive member within both UEFA and FIFA to be a key factor in swinging votes – notably the influential German one.

Instead, in an intriguing foretaste of what may come in the corridors of power, it was the combined vote of the small nations – who understood only too well how much the Euro finals would mean to Portugal – that sank the Spanish armada.

Look at the make-up of the European Championship committee. The big political guns were represented by Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium and France. They were outnumbered by the smaller nations: Czech Republic, Ukraine (in football terms), Russia (again, in football terms), Poland, Cyprus, Romania, Finland, Azerbaijan, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland.

One might even read into the voting split a general desire among the smaller and non-western European nations to fire a warning shot across the bows of the countries who have lately dictated the evolving, TV-and-sponsor-driven shape of European football's international events.

Certainly, after that vote, you can expect less talk about packaging the minnow nations away into a preliminary competition of their own in the European Championship. It would never pass a vote.

Now Portugal has to deliver. The government has promised billions of pounds, much of which probably will come out of the European Union funds being directed to the country. That way, funnily enough, at least the Spanish will be able to say they gave Portugal a helping hand…

Oh no, it's Yesaulenko!

Presidential candidate...Grigory Yesaulenko

MANCHESTER UNITED's success apparently rubs off on all who come into contact with them.

Remember Grigory Yesaulenko? He was the Russian agent alleged by Sir Alex Ferguson to have offered him £40,000 as a gesture of friendship at around the time Andrei Kanchelskis was negotiating a new contract at Old Trafford.

Sir Alex, at the time still man of the people Fergie, handed the cash back. He also claimed Yesaulenko had threatened United chairman Martin Edwards.

Yesaulenko, indignant, denied the claims. Now it is clear that his character and reputation have more than survived after he was proposed by Moscow Spartak to be the new president of the Russian League. The election is on November 30.

"His name was submitted to us by Spartak president Oleg Romantsev and we accepted his nomination along with the other five," says a League spokesman. "The only criterion is that a person must be a Russian citizen."

No arguments there, then.

A sad goodbye to Sport

EVERY now and again in these pages, readers will see the initials ESM and wonder what they mean. The answer is simple, but we need to explain it from time to time.

European Sports Magazines is a loose association of soccer-centric publications which has just celebrated its 10th anniversary. Only one magazine member is permitted per country and *World Soccer* has been the United Kingdom member for around eight years.

Other members are *Don Balon* (Spain), *Kicker* (Germany), and *Voetbal International* (Holland), which were all founders, plus *France Football* (France, obviously), *Foot* (Belgium), *A Bola* (Portugal) and *Gazzetta dello Sport* (Italy). Past members have included *Guerin Sportivo* (Italy), *Onze Mondial* (France) and, now, *Sport* of Switzerland.

After years as the doyen of such Swiss publications, and as a respected voice within the international sports movement, *Sport* has ceased to exist. It's always sad when a veteran publication is closed down, not only for colleagues who must find new employment, but for sport in general.

The magazine, its owners felt, probably had not become populist enough to survive any longer in an increasingly multi-lingual European publishing jungle.

The joke's on Jokerit

NEVER trust the press office. For example, the Finnish federation got just one thing wrong when reporting the result of its own Cup Final – one of the teams.

In an official press release after the game, they had FC Jokerit beating HJK Helsinki 2-1. In fact, Jokerit beat Jaro Pietarsaari 2-1. An embarrassed spokeswoman said the mistake arose "because Jokerit had beaten HJK 1-0 in the semi-finals". Obviously a memorable match.

Have I got news for you...Sepp Blatter

Putting the calendar back to rights

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has issued some good news for Europe's hard-pressed clubs – the unified international calendar will be up and running by next autumn.

Europe's big clubs have long complained that the problems of a congested fixture list are compounded by the erratic demands made on their star players from South America and Africa. Last year, when Blatter was elected FIFA president, he promised that a unified international calendar would be his priority – and now he says it is in sight.

Blatter spilled the beans in Barcelona after watching the Spanish champions beat Bilbao 4-0. He said: "I am very pleased to tell all the big European clubs that we are making great progress with our negotiations for the international calendar. We've now decided that we can bring this into operation after the European Championship next year. That is much sooner than even I had hoped.

"The main point is that qualifying matches for the 2002 World Cup will be played on the same dates around the world. We won't have any more of the problems caused by South American, African and Asian players being called up by the national teams at different times.

"We have always recognised that the clubs who pay the players' wages deserve proper respect – so I hope they will give us credit for trying to help."

I doubt it, somehow.

CNN WORLD SOCCER

CLUB OF THE MONTH

TOP 10 STANDINGS

1	Lazio	364pts
2	Barcelona	327
3	Manchester Utd	259
4	Bayern Munich	148
5	Milan	107
6	Bordeaux	86
7	Borussia Dortmund	69
8	Juventus	67
9	Internazionale	66
10	Rosenborg	65

Getting serious

Barcelona and Lazio are the favourites to win the Champions League. Gavin Hamilton reports on the second phase draw

BARCELONA and Lazio have been installed as the favourites to meet in the UEFA Champions League Final after the draw for the second group phase.

Spanish champions Barcelona will play Sparta Prague, FC Porto and Hertha Berlin in Group A of the second phase. Ironically, it will be an easier test for Louis Van Gaal's side than their opening phase group, which they topped ahead of Fiorentina, Arsenal and AIK Stockholm.

Van Gaal had been critical of the opening phase draw, branding it a "scandal" that his side had to start and finish the group with away encounters for the third season running. He may have been preparing his excuses in the event of elimination, but the Dutchman can have no complaints about a group which contains two of the surprise qualifiers, Sparta and Hertha.

FC Porto were comfortable qualifiers behind Real Madrid from Group E of the first phase, beating Real and Olympiakos at home and Molde home and away to secure qualification. In contrast Hertha had to rely on Galatasaray taking a point at home to Milan to qualify with Chelsea from Group H.

Sparta were the surprise winners of Group G. Their 5-2 win over Moscow Spartak on the sixth matchday secured top spot on goal difference from Bordeaux. But they are likely to find the second phase a different proposition altogether.

Defending champions Manchester United have been handed a tough draw in Group B of the second phase. United were comfortable winners of their first-phase group, despite losing away to Marseille and being held at home by Croatia Zagreb. They now face Fiorentina, Valencia and Bordeaux.

Fiorentina may well come to see their defeat of Arsenal at Wembley as the turning point in their season. Along with Valencia, the unbeaten winners of their opening-phase group despite a poor start in the Spanish League, they should be a far sterner test for United.

We're through...Barça celebrate Champions League progress

Group C is perhaps the toughest of the second-phase groups. Real Madrid, champions in 1998, face difficult trips to Rosenborg, last year's runners-up Bayern Munich and Kyiv Dynamo.

Kyiv revived after a surprise home defeat by Maribor to scrape through ahead of Bayer Leverkusen in opening-phase Group A. Bayern qualified for the second phase from a difficult group, ahead of Rangers and PSV Eindhoven.

Rosenborg are the possible surprise package. They will be handicapped by a lack of domestic League action in the winter months, but in these days of overcrowded fixture lists, that may prove a blessing in disguise.

In Group D, Lazio are favourites to reach the quarter-finals after a draw which pits them against Chelsea, Feyenoord and Marseille.

The Italians were rarely troubled in the first-round phase, beating Kyiv Dynamo at home and away, and drawing both ties with Bayer Leverkusen, 1-1.

Chelsea were one of the most impressive teams in the initial group stage, hitting five past Galatasaray in Istanbul and holding Milan to draws home and away.

Feyenoord's defeat of Rosenborg in their final first-phase match secured their qualification at the expense of Dortmund. Marseille ensured their place in the second phase following their victory over Manchester United at home. They could afford to lose away to Sturm Graz and draw at home to Croatia Zagreb and still go through.

At least now the competition gets serious. It's goodbye to the likes of Molde, Willem II and Boavista, and welcome to something approaching a proper Champions League.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SECOND GROUP PHASE

Group A

Barcelona (Spa)
Sparta Prague (Cze)
FC Porto (Por)
Hertha Berlin (Ger)

Group B

Manchester United (Eng)
Valencia (Spa)
Bordeaux (Fra)
Fiorentina (Ita)

Group C

Real Madrid (Spa)
Rosenborg (Nor)
Bayern Munich (Ger)
Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr)

Group D

Lazio (Ita)
Chelsea (Eng)
Feyenoord (Hol)
Marseille (Fra)

FIXTURES

Group A

Tuesday, November 23
Hertha Berlin v Barcelona
Sparta Prague v Porto

Wednesday, December 8
Porto v Hertha Berlin
Barcelona v Sparta Prague

Wednesday, March 1
Barcelona v Porto
Hertha Berlin v Sparta Prague

Tuesday, March 7
Porto v Barcelona
Sparta Prague v Hertha Berlin

Wednesday, March 15
Barcelona v Hertha Berlin
Porto v Sparta Prague

Tuesday, March 21
Hertha Berlin v Porto
Sparta Prague v Barcelona

Group B

Tuesday, November 23
Fiorentina v Manchester United
Valencia v Bordeaux

Wednesday, December 8
Bordeaux v Fiorentina
Manchester United v Valencia

Wednesday, March 1
Manchester United v Bordeaux
Fiorentina v Valencia

Tuesday, March 7
Bordeaux v Manchester United
Valencia v Fiorentina

Wednesday, March 15
Manchester United v Fiorentina
Bordeaux v Valencia

Tuesday, March 21
Fiorentina v Bordeaux
Valencia v Manchester United

Group C

Wednesday, November 24
Kyiv Dynamo v Real Madrid
Rosenborg v Bayern Munich

Tuesday, December 7
Bayern Munich v Kyiv Dynamo
Real Madrid v Rosenborg

Tuesday, February 29
Real Madrid v Bayern Munich
Kyiv Dynamo v Rosenborg

Wednesday, March 8
Bayern Munich v Real Madrid
Rosenborg v Kyiv Dynamo

Tuesday, March 14
Real Madrid v Kyiv Dynamo
Bayern Munich v Rosenborg

Wednesday, March 22
Kyiv Dynamo v Bayern Munich
Rosenborg v Real Madrid

Group D

Wednesday, November 24
Marseille v Lazio
Chelsea v Feyenoord

Tuesday, December 7
Feyenoord v Marseille
Lazio v Chelsea

Tuesday, February 29
Lazio v Feyenoord
Marseille v Chelsea

Wednesday, March 8
Feyenoord v Lazio
Chelsea v Marseille

Tuesday, March 14
Lazio v Marseille
Feyenoord v Chelsea

Wednesday, March 22
Marseille v Feyenoord
Chelsea v Lazio

ESM ELEVEN

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
OCTOBER 1999

HOW THEY LINE UP

Keller (2 votes, Rayo Vallecano); Cocu (3, Barcelona), Abelardo (2, Barcelona), Leboeuf (2, Chelsea), Mihajlovic (6, Lazio); Figo (6, Barcelona), Guardiola (7, Barcelona), Veron (5, Lazio), Rivaldo (3, Barcelona); Shevchenko (5, Milan), Salva (3, Racing Santander).

HOW THEY VOTED

A BOLA (PORTUGAL)

Vitor Baia (FC Porto); Michel Salgado (Real Madrid); Gallas (Marseille), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Lizarazu (Bayern Munich); Figo (Barcelona), Guardiola (Barcelona), Veron (Lazio), Savio (Real Madrid); Shevchenko (Milan); Claudio Lopez (Valencia).

DON BALON (SPAIN)

Enke (Benfica); Mihajlovic (Lazio), Keown (Arsenal), Maldini (Milan); Figo (Barcelona), Guardiola (Barcelona), Veron (Lazio); Rivaldo (Barcelona); Milosevic (Zaragoza), Salva (Racing Santander), Shevchenko (Milan).

FOOT (BELGIUM)

Peruzzi (Inter); Nowotny (Leverkusen), Guardiola (Barcelona), Woodgate (Leeds), Mihajlovic (Lazio); Figo (Barcelona), Bowyer (Leeds), Effenberg (Bayern Munich), Cocu (Barcelona); Shevchenko (Milan), Laslandes (Bordeaux).

FRANCE FOOTBALL

Martyn (Leeds); Abelardo (Barça), Leboeuf (Chelsea), Repka (Fiorentina); Beckham (Man Utd), Guardiola (Barça), Veron (Lazio), Georgatos (Inter); Figo (Barça), Jardel (Porto), Rivaldo (Barcelona).

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITA)

Keller (Rayo Vallecano); Thuram (Parma), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Leboeuf (Chelsea), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Figo (Barcelona), Veron (Lazio), Guardiola (Barcelona), Rivaldo (Barcelona); Raul (Real Madrid), Shevchenko (Milan).

KICKER (GERMANY)

Keller (Rayo Vallecano); Panucci (Inter), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Abelardo (Barcelona); Conceicao (Lazio), Emerson (Leverkusen), Poyet (Chelsea), Cocu (Barcelona), Figo (Barcelona); Laslandes (Bordeaux), Shevchenko (Milan).

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOLLAND)

Dudek (Feyenoord); Gallas (Marseille), Ferrer (Chelsea), Desailly (Chelsea), Mihajlovic (Lazio); Cocu (Barcelona), Veron (Lazio), Guardiola (Barcelona), Raul (Real Madrid); Phillips (Sunderland), Salva (Racing Santander).

WORLD SOCCER

Warmuz (Lens); R De Boer (Barcelona), Reuter (Dortmund), F De Boer (Barcelona), Heinrich (Fiorentina); Beckham (Man Utd), Guardiola (Barcelona), Djorkaeff (Kaiserslautern), Wise (Chelsea); Salva (Racing Santander), Machlas (Ajax).

Libero BOOKS

The monthly page rounding up the best (and worst) in football publishing

BOOK OF THE MONTH

THE MIRACLE OF CASTEL DI SANGRO

by Joe McGinniss
(Little, Brown, £17.99)

JOE McGINNISS has written an extraordinary book. His account of tiny Castel di Sangro's first season in Serie B is fascinating and compelling, containing revelations which, if they ever appear in Italy, will prove explosive.

This is McGinniss's first book about football, but it is by no means his first book. In the United States, he is an accomplished, award-winning author. But his 'addiction' to football only took hold during the 1994 World Cup, when Roberto Baggio shone for Italy.

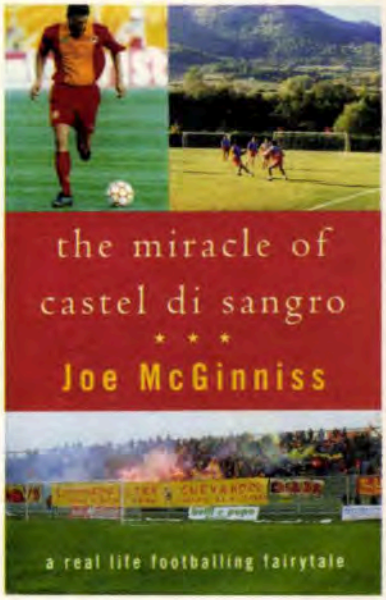
McGinniss pursued his new-found devotion to Italian football through magazines and newspapers. A feature in *Guerin Sportivo* on Castel di Sangro's incredible rise – from Sunday league to Serie B – prompted McGinniss to leave his Massachusetts home and spend nine months living in the tiny town (population 5,000) in the remote heart of southern Italy.

McGinniss's love of the game shines through, from the opening page – when he meets a Milan fan who is so desperate to avoid hearing his team's result until he has watched a video recording of the match that he walks through the streets of Florence with strips from *Gazzetta dello Sport* stuffed in his ears – to the final chapter, when his contempt for an alleged match-fixing scam is made all too clear.

Throughout, the book is beautifully written and the match reports refreshingly free from cliches. But what makes this account of life in the rotten underbelly of the Italian south so remarkable is the astonishing access to the team that McGinniss received throughout his time in Castel di Sangro.

He is housed by the club in an apartment next door to the coach, he dines with the players daily, travels on the team bus, referees a five-a-side training match, and spends his evenings haranguing the coach for his team selections!

And McGinniss does not flinch when he discovers things – Mafia corruption, adultery, drug-smuggling



as well as match-fixing – to which his hosts expect him to turn a blind eye.

He writes: "In Castel di Sangro I was not one more anonymous voice. I was the *scrittore americano*, and because I was different I got noticed...what others only whispered, I said aloud with what I like to think was admirable candour but which some might have viewed as only a crass lack of sophistication."

We are all the better for it.

Gavin Hamilton

PASSOVOTCHKA

by David Downing
(Bloomsbury, £16.99)

FOOTBALL in Britain was still staggering back upright after being very nearly flattened during World War Two. Nearly everything was rationed or in short supply for some reason or other. Austerity was the name of the game.

And then, in November 1945, Moscow Dynamo arrived for a three-week visit. Next best thing to Martians, they were, causing such a furore that – among many other unusual events – my father, who worked in Liverpool, was sent all the way to London to cover the team's first match, against Chelsea.

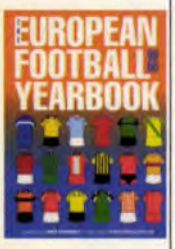
Whenever Dynamo cropped up in conversation after that, he would say that English football was lucky to escape a disaster: the crowd broke in, topping 80,000, many of them having arrived by crossing the electric railway lines on foot.

David Downing revives this and many other aspects of their short and controversial trip in his excellent book, in which enormous research and an entertaining touch go hand in hand.

The Dynamo players were like creatures from another planet – Downing writes that they were "from the footballing equivalent of a Mir space station, carefully watching for the effects of exile in foreign space to reveal themselves" – who won two and drew two of their four games, pulled in a total attendance of 269,600, and went back home leaving a scent of magic in the air.

These strange creatures came to Britain at a strange time in history, and did some strange deeds. Presumably they are now nearly all gone, but their story deserves to be read. If only Mr Downing had written it earlier.

David Prole



A MATTER OF OPINION

by Alan Hansen
(Partridge, £16.99)

WE all have our favourite players, and Alan Hansen was one of mine. The first time I saw him, I said to myself: You'll do, son. He did. And he went on doing it.

Now, of course, a new generation has grown up, a generation which might be excused for being unaware that Hansen was a great defender (and sometimes a very good attacker, too). Now he's a Telly Person, with all that entails.

So we should be grateful that he has spared us some of his time to write this book, in conjunction with Jason Tomas, who has written quite a few but still cannot avoid the easy lure of the inverted sentence.

This is an entertaining mixture of biography, tactical analysis, anecdote, whimsy and honesty that is priced just about right.

David Prole

THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

Mike Hammond
(Sports Projects, £23.95)

THE usual excellent-value-for-money reference work. Pricey, but well-produced and a real mine of information. All 1,120 pages. Yes, 1,120. Which of course explains why it did not arrive on the shelves until early November, roughly 10 weeks into the average season. Pity.

David Prole

FOOTBALL IN FORMER SOVIET UNION REPUBLICS

Margus Luik and Eduard Nisenboim
(VH Sportmedia AG)

FOLLOWERS of soccer in what used to be the Soviet Union, from Armenia to Uzbekistan, will be delighted with the latest edition of this statistical opus. Further information from Margus Luik, PO Box 922, 13402 Tallinn, Estonia.

David Prole

Goodbye Zagreb...Ardiles

COACHES ON THE MOVE

Ardiles out

CROATIA ZAGREB coach **Ossie Ardiles** was fired after the club's exit from the Champions League. His successor is **Marijan Vlak**, formerly Ardiles' assistant.

In Italy, **Francesco Guidolin** has taken over at Bologna after the resignation of **Sergio Buso**.

Struggling Venezia fired **Luciano Spalletti** and replaced him with **Giuseppe Materazzi**, former Sporting Lisbon coach.

Bulgarian **Ionso Arsov** has taken the helm at Omonia Nicosia for a second spell following the resignation of Slovakian **Dusan Galic**

Former Marseille coach **Gerard Gili** is the Egyptian national team's new technical director. He takes over from Mahmoud Al-Jouhari, who resigned after Egypt's 5-1 defeat by Saudi Arabia at the Confederations Cup in July.

Marvin Rodriguez has become coach of Costa Rica for the third time following the resignation of Colombian Francisco Maturana.

Lens have replaced **Daniel Leclerq** with **Francois Brisson**, Leclerq's former assistant.

Lithuanian **Benjaminas Zelkyavicius** was dismissed by Russian side Shinnik, now relegated.

Jozsef Garami has been named as the successor to **Karoly Gergely** at Hungarian club Gyor.

Same again...McCarthy

Gergely was fired after the team made only a modest start to the season.

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 2000 – THE DRAW

Group A
(Sao Paulo, Morumbi stadium)

Jan 5 Real Madrid v Al Nasr
Jan 5 Corinthians v African champions
Jan 7 Real Madrid v Corinthians
Jan 7 African champions v Al Nasr
Jan 10 Real Madrid v African champions
Jan 10 Al Nasr v Corinthians

Group B
(Rio de Janeiro, Maracana stadium)

Jan 6 Manchester United v Necaxa
Jan 6 Vasco da Gama v South Melbourne
Jan 8 Manchester United v Vasco da Gama
Jan 8 South Melbourne v Necaxa
Jan 11 Manchester United v South Melbourne
Jan 11 Necaxa v Vasco da Gama

Final/3rd place play-off
Jan 14 Maracana stadium

COACHES STAYING ON

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND coach **Mick McCarthy** has signed a two-year extension to his contract, until February 2002.

PLAYERS STAYING ON

Giovane Elber has extended his contract with Bayern Munich by three years, until 2004.

Monaco's 19-year-old Norwegian defender **John Arne Riise** has signed up until 2006.

OUT OF ACTION

REAL MADRID'S Bosnian forward **Elvir Baljic** will miss most of the rest of the season with knee ligament damage.

Kilmarnock forward **Ally McCoist** broke a leg against former club Rangers and is likely to be out for several months.

German Kutarba, a defender with Russian side Alaniya Vladikavkaz, has been banned for 10 games for spitting at a referee.

USA international **Alexi Lalas** has announced his retirement. The defender has recently been with Major League Soccer side Kansas City Wizards.

INTERNATIONAL INS AND OUTS

FORWARD **Gilles De Bilde** was recalled to the Belgium squad for the friendly against England nine months after walking out on the international scene.

OTHER NEWS

A 17-YEAR-OLD fan was killed by a flare thrown from the terraces as rival Red Star and Partizan supporters rioted after a violent Belgrade derby.

TRANSFERS

		FROM	TO
Romarin Billong	D	Saint-Etienne	West Ham
Benito Carbone	F	Sheffield Wednesday	Aston Villa
Lucas Comineli	M	Granada	Newcastle (loan)
Hermann Hreidarsson	D	Brentford	Wimbledon
Georgi Kinkladze	M	Ajax	Derby (loan)
Masakiyo Maezono	M	Verdy Kawasaki	Guimaraes
Fernando Picun	D	Feyenoord	Urawa Red Diamonds
Daniel Sjojund	M	Brommapojkarna	West Ham
Ian Wright	F	West Ham	Celtic (loan)
Clayton Zane	F	Northern Spirit	Molde

WORLD SOCCER AWARDS '99

Once again, it's your chance to help decide the Player, Team and Manager of the Year, but hurry, time is running out. As ever, the choice is yours: any player, any manager, any team – just fill in the coupon and get it to us by November 25 to make sure your vote counts.

Votes are acceptable ONLY on this form (or a photocopy), complete with your name and address. Please use CAPITAL letters and send the form, so that it arrives by November 25 at the latest, to:

1999 World Soccer awards
24th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street,
London SE1 9LS, England

1999 Player _____

1999 Team _____

1999 Manager _____

My name _____

My address _____

Country _____

DEC

Mental preparation is almost as important to onfield success as physical preparation. For instance, how do Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke communicate on the pitch? Answer: ESP.

Fig 1

Scientists find it difficult to understand ESP.

Fig 2

Full backs and defenders find it almost impossible.

Fig 3

Fig 4

ESP allows Cole and Yorke to stay in contact with each other.
The all-weather traction and supple lightweight upper of the Air Zoom Match-FIT training shoe allows them to stay in contact with the ball.

Advanced ESP ensures that you bond with your team mate. Advanced Nike fabric technology ensures that you don't bond with your Jersey.

Fig 5

Number one...Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pele

Pele all

PELE was the first name on the first Top 10 entry to reach the *World Soccer* office back in May, shortly after we published the first voting form inviting readers to nominate the best players of the century. He was first on the final entry form to be opened, too, as the voting closed.

The Brazilian had been the favourite to top the poll, of course, such is his standing in the world game, but his winning margin was almost unbelievable. No fewer than 341 readers put Pele first on their list. Another 280 nominated him in places two to 10. Under the system of scoring used – 10 points for a first place, nine for a second, down to one for a 10th – Pele gained almost half the nominations for first place, finished 1550 points ahead of Diego Maradona in second, and 2111 ahead of Johan Cruyff in third.

"We can't all vote for Pele," wrote one reader, explaining why his list did not include the world's greatest. The rules did not include any such stipulation, though, and the vast majority put him somewhere on their list.

The Top 10 includes six Europeans – two Dutchmen (Johan Cruyff and Marco Van Basten), a German (Franz Beckenbauer), a Frenchman (Michel Platini), a Hungarian (Ferenc Puskas) and an Irishman (George Best) – against three from South America: Pele and the Argentinians Maradona and Alfredo Di Stefano. Eusebio, from Africa via Portugal, took 10th spot.

Despite the enormous growth in media coverage of the game since the advent of colour TV, nearly all the Top 10 were in their prime many years ago. Pele, for example, ended his career in 1977, but despite his not having kicked a ball competitively for almost quarter of a century, his victory in the poll could hardly have been more conclusive.

Cruyff and Beckenbauer were in their pomp in the 1970s, Di Stefano, Puskas, Best and Eusebio even earlier. Of the Top 10, only Platini, Maradona and Van Basten have achieved anything of note in the past two decades.

Van Basten, incidentally, was the only one of the Top 10 to lose much of his career to injury. The others were remarkably durable as well as amazingly talented, and even Best, frequently reviled for his lack of discipline as well as savagely treated by opponents, was enviably consistent: in eight seasons, 1964-72, he missed only 22 out of 336 First Division matches.

We at *World Soccer* like to believe that our readers are more discerning than those of other football magazines, with a greater appreciation of the game and its tactics. The results of this poll certainly bear out that view.

As reader Robert Drusetta wrote from South Australia: "What definition do we attach to 'the best'? Best and fairest? Loyalty? I settled on the

the way

The Greatest leaves the rest standing in our top 100 vote

following – a player who demonstrated the ability to decide a game, and inspire his team consistently."

Mr Drusetta also pointed out that "wanting to do this right required many hours of internet surfing and library visiting to accumulate details on the players I had not seen in action".

Not everybody will have gone to such lengths as him, but in general our voters seem to have opted for players who have displayed individual skill, ability as a team performer, overall influence, and good behaviour on and off the pitch. In other words, long-lasting class rather than fly-by-night tabloid-and-telly hysteria.

The majority of nominations were for English players, which is hardly a shock in view of the magazine's base, followed by Italians and Germans. Brazil led the way for South America.

Players who appeared in World Cup Finals were extremely popular, which is no surprise either. Twelve of the 22 in 1966 were nominated (seven English, five German), as were eight of Brazil's 1958 side and seven from their team of 12 years later.

A majority of the Manchester United team who won the Treble earlier this year got at least one vote, but perhaps they ought to be aware that fame can be fleeting. Only Charlton and Best were nominated from the 11 who won the European Cup for United in 1968, plus Law, who missed the match through injury.

Hungary put on perhaps the outstanding post-war display in the 6-3 victory over England at Wembley in 1953, and eight of that side were chosen by our readers – Puskas, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Budai, Czibor, Grosics, Bozsik and Buzansky.

In contrast, only Stanley Matthews and Billy Wright of the England team that day were mentioned. The total omission of Stan Mortensen, who scored more than 300 goals in his career – including 23 in only 25 internationals – was one of the biggest surprises of the entire vote.

The Maldinis and Mazzolas led the way for father-and-son combinations (although Jordi Cruyff crept in, a long way behind Johan). The Laudrups were the only pair of brothers.

Pre-war players who stood the test of time included legendary Brazilians Domingas da Guaia and Leonidas, Italians Silvio Piola (356 career goals) and Giuseppe Meazza (355), Austria's 'Man of paper' Sindelar, the Arsenal forward trio of Ted Drake, Alex James and Cliff Bastin, Bill 'Dixie' Dean, he of the 60 League goals in one season, and, of course, Stanley Matthews, who – according to one reader – "symbolises football in England".

Billy Meredith, whose playing career with the Manchester clubs lasted 30 years, and Manchester United's Charlie Roberts, of similar mind and similar era, also are given a mention, possibly because of their union activities. Jimmy Hill is not similarly recognised.

But the name of the player whose selfless campaign on behalf of his fellows helped to produce the present glut of football millionaires DOES appear in our list, thanks to a reader in Mahe, Seychelles.

Players (and readers) everywhere, why not celebrate the millennium by drinking a toast to Jean-Marc Bosman?

World-beater...Pele in 1970

1 PELE

Born October 23, 1940, in Tres Coracoes, Brazil
Clubs Santos, New York Cosmos
International record 92 caps, 77 goals

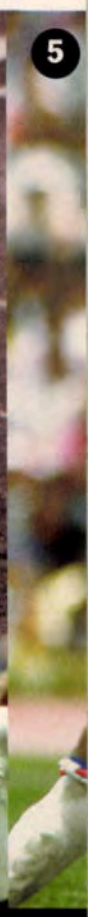
Pele began with a junior club, Bauru, made his debut for Santos when only 15, and was just 16 when he appeared in his first full international. He went on to score 1,090 goals for Santos in 1,114 matches before joining New York Cosmos in the North American Soccer League. Pele played at four World Cup tournaments, winning the trophy in 1958 and 1970 (and scoring in the Final at both). He won the World Club Cup and the Libertadores Cup in both 1962 and 1963, as well as various other club events in South America. He was awarded Brazil's Gold Medal for outstanding services to the game, became Sports Minister in 1994, and three years later was given an honorary British knighthood.

The TOP 10

	1st (10pts)	2nd (9pts)	3rd (8pts)	4th (7pts)	5th (6pts)	6th (5pts)	7th (4pts)	8th (3pts)	9th (2pts)	10th (1pt)	TOTAL
1 Pele	3410	1296	360	189	108	60	36	18	6	16	5499pts
2 Diego Maradona	1130	1350	568	385	264	110	60	45	26	11	3949
3 Johan Cruyff	280	774	1096	560	342	145	84	66	32	9	3388
4 Franz Beckenbauer	120	342	872	560	372	260	112	69	54	19	2780
5 Michel Platini	60	171	248	245	366	220	208	219	96	21	1854
6 Alfredo Di Stefano	220	288	296	266	174	135	80	45	26	11	1541
7 Ferenc Puskas	140	144	248	224	246	225	128	102	62	18	1537
8 George Best	220	198	232	126	126	125	56	69	30	8	1190
9 Marco Van Basten	140	117	136	154	114	80	120	78	66	21	1026
10 Eusebio	40	36	144	175	150	140	160	93	66	18	1022

Figures represent the number of selections for each player multiplied by the points allocated per position (ie 341 readers put Pele 1st x 10pts = 3410pts)

CENTURY OF SOCCER: READERS' POLL



2 DIEGO MARADONA

Born October 30, 1960, in Lanus, Argentina
Clubs Argentinos Juniors, Boca Juniors, Barcelona, Napoli, Sevilla, Newell's Old Boys, Boca Juniors, Quilmes
International record 90 caps, 34 goals

Argentina's answer to Pele was one of eight children brought up in a poor area of Buenos Aires. Like Pele, Maradona made his international debut at 16, but moved from club to club (twice for a world record fee) during a career bedevilled by disciplinary problems both on the field and off. He was the inspiration behind Argentina's World Cup victory in 1986, when he was also named World Footballer of the Year.

3 JOHAN CRUYFF

Born April 25, 1947, in Amsterdam
Clubs Ajax, Barcelona, Los Angeles Aztecs, Washington Diplomats, Levante, Ajax, Feyenoord
International record 48 caps, 33 goals

A wonderfully creative player despite being a heavy smoker, which later caused him health problems. His honours included three successive European Cup medals and the title of "Best foreign footballer I've ever seen," from Liverpool manager Bill Shankly. Named European Footballer of the Year in 1971, 1973 and 1974. Ended his international career early after rumoured death threats, but gained further European honours as coach with Ajax and then Barcelona.

4 FRANZ BECKENBAUER

Born September 11, 1945, in Munich
Clubs Bayern Munich, New York Cosmos, Hamburg
International record 103 caps, 13 goals

The first German to win 100 caps. He was a World Cup winner as a player in 1974 and as a coach in 1990; a runner-up as a player in 1966 and as a coach in 1986. Other playing honours included three successive European Cups, a Cup-winners Cup, a European Championship and a World Club Cup. Now Bayern president.

5 MICHEL PLATINI

Born June 21, 1955, in Nancy, France
Clubs Nancy-Lorraine, Saint-Etienne, Juventus
International record 72 caps, 41 goals

Platini's nine goals in five games during France's victorious 1984 European Championship campaign made him a legend, and his attacking midfield play also inspired Juventus to the 1985 European Cup. He later coached the French national squad, and became director of the France 98 World Cup. Voted World Footballer of the Year in 1984 and 1985.

6 ALFREDO DI STEFANO

Born July 4, 1926, in Barracas, Argentina
Clubs River Plate, Huracan, River Plate, Millonarios, Real Madrid, Espanyol
International record 8 caps, 6 goals (Argentina); 31 caps, 23 goals (Spain)

Di Stefano's wonderfully successful career as the first 'total' footballer lasted almost a quarter of a century. His greatest days were at Real Madrid, where he helped them win the first five European Cup tournaments, scoring in all five Finals. Named European Footballer of the Year in 1957 and 1959.

7 FERENC PUSKAS

Born April 2, 1927, in Budapest
Clubs Honved (formerly Kispest), Real Madrid
International record 84 caps, 83 goals (Hungary); 4 caps, 0 goals (Spain)

The man with the magic left foot. Scored four hat-tricks for Hungary, and is the only man to score two hat-tricks in European Cup Finals, for Real Madrid in 1960 and 1962. Captain of the Magnificent Magyars in the early 1950s, then changed nationality to Spanish after the Hungarian uprising in 1956. Later briefly managed the national squad.

8 GEORGE BEST

Born May 22, 1946, in Belfast
Clubs Manchester United, Dunstable Town, Stockport County, Los Angeles Aztecs, Cork Celtic, Fulham, Fort Lauderdale Strikers, Motherwell, Hibernian, San Jose Earthquakes, Bournemouth
International record 37 caps, 9 goals

Probably the outstanding British player of the post-war era, although he never played in a World Cup or FA Cup Final. His magical dribbling skills made him enormously popular despite a wayward lifestyle. European Cup winner in 1968 and voted European Footballer of the Year in the same year.

9 MARCO VAN BASTEN

Born October 31, 1964, in Amsterdam
Clubs Ajax, Milan
International record 58 caps, 24 goals

Van Basten scored on his debut for Ajax at 17, and went on scoring in important matches, both for his club sides and Holland. These goals included three against England in the 1988 European Championship, one against the Soviet Union in Holland's 2-0 victory in the Final of that tournament, and two against Steaua Bucharest in the 1989 European Cup Final, which Milan won 4-0. Won the trophy again in 1990 and was named World Footballer of the Year in 1992 – four years after taking the award for the first time. A series of ankle injuries brought his career to a premature end.

10 EUSEBIO

Born January 25, 1942, in Maputo, Mozambique
Clubs Benfica, Boston Minutemen, Toronto Metros-Croatia, Las Vegas Quicksilver, Monterrey
International record 64 caps, 41 goals (Portugal)

Discovered by a Benfica contact in his native Mozambique, and went on to become perhaps the greatest African-born player of all time. Eusebio was top scorer at the 1966 World Cup with nine goals and in all he scored a record 41 for Portugal. Won the European Cup with Benfica in 1962, scoring two in the 5-3 defeat of Real Madrid, and was named European Footballer of the Year in 1965. A statue of him now stands in his adopted Lisbon.

CENTURY OF SOCCER: READERS' POLL

The next 90

High-ranking...(from left) Lev Yashin, Bobby Charlton and Zico

Pos	Name	Points
11	Lev Yashin (Rus)	821
12	Bobby Charlton (Eng)	680
13	Ronaldo (Bra)	541
14	Bobby Moore (Eng)	539
15	Gerd Muller (Ger)	498
16	Roberto Baggio (Ita)	486
17	Stanley Matthews (Eng)	429
18	Zico (Bra)	390
19	Franco Baresi (Ita)	371
20	Garrincha (Bra)	361
21	Paolo Maldini (Ita)	345
22	Kenny Dalglish (Sco)	334
23	Gabriel Batistuta (Arg)	300
24	Eric Cantona (Fra)	299
25	Gheorghe Hagi (Rom)	293
26	Romario (Bra)	257
27	Jairzinho (Bra)	248
28	Zinedine Zidane (Fra)	238
29	Ruud Gullit (Hol)	221
30	John Charles (Wal)	212
31	Lothar Matthaus (Ger)	202
32	Gordon Banks (Eng)	178
33	Jurgen Klinsmann (Ger)	168
34	Dennis Bergkamp (Hol)	150
35	Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Ger)	149
36	Gary Lineker (Eng)	134
37	Giuseppe Meazza (Ita)	132
38	Rivelino (Bra)	124
39	Didi (Bra)	123
40	Ian Rush (Wal)	109
41	Peter Schmeichel (Den)	104
	Paolo Rossi (Ita)	104
43	George Weah (Lbr)	99
44	Michael Owen (Eng)	90
45	Just Fontaine (Fra)	88
46	Duncan Edwards (Eng)	86
47	Dino Zoff (Ita)	80
48	Hristo Stoichkov (Bul)	77
49	David Beckham (Eng)	74
50	Tom Finney (Eng)	72
51	Rivaldo (Bra)	71
52	Claudio Caniggia (Arg)	64
53	Tostao (Bra)	63
54	Frank Rijkaard (Hol)	62
55	Jose Luis Chilavert (Par)	61
56	Kevin Keegan (Eng)	60
57	Paul Gascoigne (Eng)	57
58	Roger Milla (Cam)	56
59	Michael Laudrup (Den)	55
60	Andrii Shevchenko (Ukr)	54
61	David Ginola (Fra)	53
	Glenn Hoddle (Eng)	53
	Socrates (Bra)	53
64	Roberto Carlos (Bra)	52
	Alan Shearer (Eng)	52
66	Daniel Passarella (Arg)	51
67	Davor Suker (Cro)	50
68	Dixie Dean (Eng)	49
	Sandor Kocsis (Hun)	49
	Juan Alberto Schiaffino (Uru/Ita)	49
	Christian Vieri (Ita)	49
72	Mario Kempes (Arg)	47
	Johan Neeskens (Hol)	47
	Luigi Riva (Ita)	47
75	Jose Nasazzi (Uru)	46
	Gunter Netzer (Ger)	46
77	Alessandro Del Piero (Ita)	43
	Carlos Valderrama (Col)	43
79	Ricardo Zamora (Spa)	42
80	Enzo Francescoli (Uru)	41
81	Edgar Davids (Hol)	40
	Francisco Gento (Spa)	40
83	Jim Baxter (Sco)	38
	Falcao (Bra)	38
	Ryan Giggs (Wal)	38
	Sepp Maier (Ger)	38
87	Zbigniew Boniek (Pol)	37
	Pat Jennings (NI)	37
	Gyorgy Sarosi (Hun)	37
90	Giacinto Facchetti (Ita)	36
91	Alan Hansen (Sco)	34
	Raymond Kopa (Fra)	34
	Bryan Robson (Eng)	34
	Matthias Sammer (Ger)	34
95	Ladislav Kubala (Cze/Hun/Spa)	33
	Neville Southall (Wal)	33
97	Gerson (Bra)	32
98	Paulo Futre (Por)	31
	Preben Elkjaer (Den)	31
100	Bebeto (Bra)	30

The remaining 374

Other players outside the top 100 were given points as follows:

Ardiles (Arg) 14, Ademir (Bra) 13, S Al-Owairan (Sau) 10, Albert (Hun) 10, Amoros (Fra) 10, Archibald (Sco) 10, Albert (Blg) 9, Atmatsidis (Gre) 8, Adams (Eng) 6, Alemao (Bra) 6, Anelka (Fra) 6, Abedi Pele (Gha) 5, Aldridge (Ire) 5, I Allchurch (Wal) 5, Asparoukhov (Bul) 5, J L Andrade (Uru) 3, Antognoni (Ita) 3, Awukoso 3, Ayala (Chl) 2, Almeyda (Arg) 1.

Bergomi (Ita) 27, Blokhin (Rus) 27, Brady (Ire) 25, Bremner (Sco) 24, J Barnes (Eng) 23, D Blanchflower (Nl) 20, Butragueno (Spa) 18, Basler (Ger) 17, Bell (Eng) 17, Bierhoff (Ger) 16, Bozsik (Hun) 16, Ben Barek (Fra/Mor) 10, Bosman (Blg) 10, Bourdeau 10, Bratseth (Nor) 10, Baljic (Bos) 9, Barry (Eng) 8, Bettega (Ita) 8, Bosman (Hol) 8, R Byrne (Eng) 8, Ball (Eng) 7, Blind (Hol) 7, Bastin (Eng) 6, Benetti (Ita) 6, Binder (Aut) 6, Boniperti (Ita) 6, G Bailey (Eng) 5, Bonner (Ire) 5, Barthez (Fra) 3, Beardsley (Eng) 3, Briegl (Ger) 3, Budai (Hun) 3, Burruchaga (Arg) 3, Balakov (Bul) 2, Boban (Cro) 2, Buzansky (Hun) 2, Belanov (Rus) 1, Blanc (Fra) 1.

Cubillas (Per) 28, Czibor (Hun) 24, Claudio Lopez (Arg) 23, Campbell (Eng) 21, Clemence (Eng) 16, Cafu (Bra) 12, Cannavaro (Ita) 10, Carlos Alberto (Bra) 10, Careca (Bra) 9, Chiesa (Ita) 9, Clodoaldo (Bra) 8, Coluna (Por) 8, Carbajal (Mex) 7, J Collins (Sco) 7, Cabrini (Ita) 6, Caldow (Sco) 6, Campos (Mex) 6, Carey (Ire) 6, Ceulemans (Blg) 6, Coimbra (Por) 6, A Cole (Eng) 6, Croy (Ger) 6, Causio (Ita) 5, Combi (Ita) 5, Cabanas (Par) 3, Conte (Ita) 3, Chumpitaz (Per) 2, A Clarke (Eng) 2, D Cooper (Sco) 2, Currie (Eng) 2, Colak (Tur) 1, Jordi Cruyff (Hol) 1.

Detori (Hun) 29, Dzajic (Yug) 24, Denilson (Bra) 19, Dunga (Bra) 17, Domingas (Bra) 14, Desailly (Fra) 10, Duff (Ire) 10, Dilman (Tur) 9, Donadoni (Ita) 9, F De Boer (Hol) 6, Deyna (Pol) 6, Drake (Eng) 6, Dumitrescu (Rom) 5, Daei (Irn) 4, Deane (Eng) 4, Del Sol (Spa) 4, Dorigo (Eng) 2, Dasayev (Rus) 1.

Eder (Bra) 14, Edmundo (Bra) 10, England (Wal) 9, Effenberg (Ger) 1, Elder (Nl) 1, M Etcheverry (Bol) 1.

Ferrara (Ita) 19, K-H Forster (Ger) 16, Friedenreich (Bra) 11, Fowler (Eng) 10, Figueroa (Chl) 9, Figo (Por) 7, S Froggatt (Eng) 5, Frantzeskos (Gre) 2, Fortunato (Ita) 1.

Greaves (Eng) 24, Gentile (Ita) 22, Gilmar (Hun) 15, Giles (Ire) 14, Gilzean (Sco) 9, Giresse (Fra) 9, Grosics (Hun) 9, Gaetjens (USA) 8, Guardiola (Spa) 7, Goycochea (Arg) 6, Georgiatos (Gre) 3, E Gray (Sco) 3, Gamarra (Par) 2, T Gemmell (Sco) 2, George (Eng) 1, B Gonsalves (USA) 1.

Hierro (Spa) 26, Hassler (Ger) 25, Hurst (Eng) 22, Hidegkuti (Hun) 21, Luis Hernandez (Mex) 20, Higuita (Col) 14, Haller (Ger) 12, Hakan Sukur (Tur) 10, Held (Ger) 8, Howells (Eng) 8, Haan (Hol) 7, Hanappi (Aut) 6, Harder (Ger) 6, Hamman (Ger) 5, M Hughes (Wal) 3, Hellstroem (Swe) 2, Hermann (Swi) 2, Hoeness (Ger) 2, Hamm (USA) 1.

Ikpeba (Nig) 10, Ince (Eng) 5, F Inzaghi (Ita) 2, Illgner (Ger) 1.

J Johnstone (Sco) 23, Jorginho (Bra) 11, Juninho (Bra) 11, James (Sco) 8, Jordao (Por) 7, Julinho (Bra) 7, Junior Baiano (Bra) 5, Josimar (Bra) 4, Jardel (Bra) 3, R Johnstone (Sco) 3, Jurion (Blg) 3, Jarni (Cro) 1.

Kohler (Ger) 29, Kanu (Nig) 25, R Koeman (Hol) 25, Krol (Hol) 14, Kopke (Ger) 13, Roy Keane (Ire) 12, Kluivert (Hol) 12, Kipiani (Rus) 9, Kirkwood (Sco) 7, Kostic (Yug) 6, Kucukandonyadis (Tur) 6, Kiriakov (Rus) 5, Kahn (Ger) 3, Kanchelskis (Rus) 3, Konsel (Aut) 2, Krankl (Aut) 2, Kalb (Ger) 1, Keller (USA) 1, Kirsten (Ger) 1.

Lacatus (Rom) 24, B Laudrup (Den) 24, Labruna (Arg) 21, Leonidas (Bra) 19, Lawton (Eng) 14, H Larsson (Swe) 12, Lentini (Ita) 10, Liddell (Sco) 10, Lato (Pol) 8, Luzhnyi (Ukr) 8, Leonardo (Bra) 5, Leboeuf (Fra) 4, Liedholm (Swe) 4, Letchkov (Bul) 3, Lubanski (Pol) 3, Lerby (Den) 2, Lorimer (Sco) 1, Luis Enrique (Spa) 1.

McManaman (Eng) 28, S Mazzola (Ita) 25, Mancini (Ita) 17, McInally (Sco) 15, McCoist (Sco) 12, Moreno (Arg) 12, Marzolini (Arg) 10, Masopust (Cze) 9, V Mazzola (Ita) 9, Meredith (Wal) 9, D Mackay (Sco) 7, McNeill (Sco) 7, Majid Abdullah (Sau) 6, Moller (Ger) 6, C Maldini (Ita) 5, McGrath (Ire) 5, Mihajlovic (Yug) 5, Moravcic (Cze) 5, Murdoch (Sco) 5, J McIlroy (Ire) 4, Montero (Uru) 4, Mostovoi (Rus) 4, Maddix (Jam) 3, Mannion (Eng) 3, Mijatovic (Yug) 3, McGrain (Sco) 2, W Miller (Sco) 2, Morena (Uru) 2, Machlas (Gre) 1, Martin Vazquez (Spa) 1, Monti (Arg/Ita) 1.

Nicol (Sco) 10, Nikolaidis (Gre) 9, Neal (Eng) 6, Niyilasi (Hun) 6, Nakata (Jap) 1, Nedved (Cze) 1, G Neville (Eng) 1, Nevin (Sco) 1.

Ortega (Arg) 29, Oliseh (Nig) 28, Overath (Ger) 16, Ocwirk (Aut) 7, F Omam-Biyik (Cam) 6, Okocha (Nig) 2, Oktay (Tur) 2.

Piola (Ita) 17, Gheorghe Popescu (Rom) 17, Pearce (Eng) 11, Planicka (Cze) 11, Pirri (Spa) 10, Piyapong (Tha) 10, Petit (Fra) 9, Petrescu (Rom) 5, Preud'homme (Blg) 5, Papaioannou (Gre) 4, Parvin (Irn) 4, Pedernera (Arg) 4, Platt (Eng) 4, Peruzzi (Ita) 3, Polster (Aut) 3, P Parker (Eng) 2, Parola (Ita) 2, Hugo Perez (USA) 1, Prosinecki (Cro) 1.

Rivera (Ita) 29, Rensenbrink (Hol) 15, Rui Costa (Por) 12, Rufai (Nig) 8, Rosenthal (Isr) 7, Rosler (Ger) 6, C Roberts (Eng) 5, Rava (Ita) 3, Ramos (USA) 2, Redondo (Arg) 2, Rep (Hol) 2, Ravelli (Swe) 1, J Robertson (Sco) 1.

Sindelar (Aut) 29, Stam (Hol) 29, Suarez (Spa) 29, N Santos (Bra) 28, Scirea (Ita) 28, Salas (Chl) 27, Schuster (Ger) 27, Savicevic (Yug) 23, Simeone (Arg) 21, Hugo Sanchez (Mex) 19, Schillaci (Ita) 18, D Santos (Bra) 17, Solskjaer (Nor) 17, Shilton (Eng) 16, Leonel Sanchez (Chl) 13, Seeler (Ger) 12, Santamaria (Uru/Spa) 10, Scifo (Blg) 10, W Steel (Sco) 10, Savrakos (Gre) 9, Schlosser (Hun) 9, Slijvo (Yug) 9, Sono (SAf) 9, Spiegler (Isr) 9, Stabile (Arg) 8, Stojkovic (Yug) 8, Streltsov (Rus) 8, Swift (Eng) 8, Sekularac (Yug) 7, Skoblar (Yug) 7, Shackleton (Eng) 6, Sarti (Ita) 5, Seaman (Eng) 5, Schumacher (Ger) 4, Sharpe (Eng) 4, Stulfauth (Ger) 2, Schroif (Cze) 1, Simoes (Por) 1.

Trautmann (Ger) 26, Thuram (Fra) 13, Tardelli (Ita) 8, Torres (Por) 6, Taffarel (Bra) 4, Tigana (Fra) 4, Toshack (Wal) 4, Peter Thompson (Eng) 3, Phil Thompson (Eng) 3, Thon (Ger) 3, Tueart (Eng) 1.

Ugarte 13.

Vialli (Ita) 26, Van der Sar (Hol) 23, Varela (Uru) 18, Voller (Ger) 17, Veron (Arg) 16, Van Hanegem (Hol) 13, Vava (Bra) 11, Viola (Bra) 7, Van Breukelen (Hol) 6, Vierchowod (Ita) 6, Van Beveren (Hol) 4, Van Tiggelen (Hol) 2, Villa (Arg) 1.

R Wilson (Eng) 17, W Wright (Eng) 15, I Wright (Eng) 14, J White (Sco) 8, Wenger (Fra) 6, Worthington (Eng) 5, F Walter (Ger) 3, Worns (Ger) 2, Waddle (Eng) 1, Wynalda (USA) 1.

Yorke (T&T) 18, A Young (Sco) 7, G Young (Sco) 6, Yeboah (Gha) 5, Yekini (Nig) 1.

Zubizarreta (Spa) 29, Zola (Ita) 26, Zamorano (Chl) 7, Zagallo (Bra) 6, Zenga (Ita) 6, Zalayeta (Uru) 5, Zanetti (Arg) 2.

Logical fans...and the other sort

NOT ALL readers who sent in Top 10 selections were as logical as Paul McKay of Glossop, Derbyshire, who enclosed a letter pointing out "the genuine and honest reasons why these 10 are on the list" and "thanking your excellent publication for giving me this opportunity, even if some of my choices may not be shared by many, if any, other people".

Mr McKay's selections had a certain bias towards Manchester City, but the reasoning behind them was crystal clear compared with some. For example, one woman in Mexico chose nine Germans plus Manchester United's Teddy Sheringham, while an Irish reader chose 10 Brazilians, only six of whom had won the World Cup.

There was an all-Italian line-up (from Italy), an all-Hungarian line-up (from Australia), a selection in which the first six players were Welsh, and another where the last six players were Dutch.

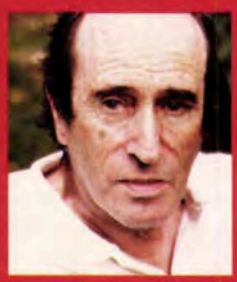
One entry gave Jurgen Klinsmann all 10 nominations (only the first one counted according to *World Soccer* rules), while another mentioned only a single name – that of Larbi Ben Barek, a French-Moroccan inside-forward of half a century ago. The sender included a touching letter praising the player for his skill and sportsmanship.

There was one entry that contained an uncompleted form, and another even less helpful: it consisted of an empty envelope.

A note all the way from South Korea had been sent by a fan who apologised because (a) his handwriting was poor, and (b) he had made it poorer because he filled in the form while travelling on a bus. So he went to the trouble of sending another entry.

And there was a selection from a prisoner in Cambridgeshire...seven of whose list tallied with the overall Top 10.

Milestones and memories



Brian Glanville reviews a century of soccer...

Over the next 40 pages, *World Soccer*'s long-time columnist chronicles the people and events that have shaped the game over the past 100 years. Plus, a key date chronology and our list of 100 influential figures of the century

BY 1900, professional football was solidly established in England, with a flourishing Football League and an ever more popular Football Association Cup, surely the mother of all tournaments.

In 1899, an FA party had toured Germany, where the professional members were warmly received by various student bodies. British coaches were working diligently abroad, especially in Denmark. But as early as 1903, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland and Spain met for the purpose of forming an international association, with minimal encouragement from England.

In Italy, groups of British expatriates already had established such long-lasting clubs as *il vecchio* Genoa, old Genoa, as early as 1893, and Milan, where Britons and Italians banded together, in 1899. A so-called Federal Championship had been up and running since 1898, Genoa winning six out of the first seven titles, Milan prevailing in 1901.

In South America, British sailors, railwaymen and other expatriates had taken the game to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. That famous sportsman Sir Thomas Lipton put up the Lipton Cup for competition between Uruguay and Argentina across the River Plate.

Amateurs hold sway

Well before the Great War, the likes of the amateur Corinthians, Tottenham Hotspur and Everton were touring Argentina, though the game would not truly take off there until the massive Italian immigration around the turn of the century. So popular were the Corinthians in Brazil that the Sao Paulo club, who have long since hugely outstripped them, decided to take their name.

In those years before the First World War, amateurs were more than capable of holding their own against professionals, and it would have been interesting to see what the Corinthians, all ex-public schoolboys, might have accomplished had they entered the FA Cup, from which the dictat of their founder, 'Pa' Jackson, barred them. He had no time for professionals and professionalism, and had indeed quite wrongly predicted doom and dismay for that 1899 FA team in Germany, but his own sides were extremely powerful.

Early influence...the Corinthians embodied the amateur spirit

Indeed, after Bury had enjoyed a record win, 6-0, in the 1903 FA Cup Final against Derby County, the Corinthians thrashed them in a charity game.

Just what a great gap existed between British football and the Continent's was shown in 1901 when the German international team returned the visit of the FA side. At Tottenham, on a sodden pitch, they lost 12-0 to a team wholly composed of amateurs, among them that peerless Old Carthusian centre-forward G O Smith; adept on the ground but hardly ever a header of the ball!

In attack, according to the *Manchester Guardian*, the Germans "seemed to have a good idea of the game, but being imperfectly shod, could not keep their feet". The paper, looking ahead to the Germans' game with a Professionals XI, piously, but fruitlessly, added: "Perhaps the professional players, if they find their opponents weak, will extend to them a courtesy which sportsmanship and a sense of hospitality might have suggested to the amateurs at Tottenham."

So much, you might say, for the Corinthian spirit, but at Manchester the pros were little more indulgent, winning 10-0. This despite the fine goalkeeping of Ludecke, a hero of both games.

"For the moment," wrote one critic, "any idea of Germany seriously challenging England at Association Football may be put aside as absurd." The Germans would have to wait another 67 years before they beat England, but then they got the taste for it.

The French take the lead

In 1904, FIFA, the international body, was formed without the presence of any of the four British Associations, though the FA would relent the following year. As so often in the history of the international game, the French were the prime movers.

After that seminal meeting, FIFA president Robert Guerin was sent to London to meet the FA secretary, Frederick Wall, who listened dispassionately with his head buried in his hands as Guerin pleaded for England to take the initiative. But splendid isolation was alas the order of the day and all that Guerin could wring out of Wall was a promise to refer the matter to his board.

After a lapse of several months, Guerin was at last recalled to

Record win...Bury thrashed Derby 6-0 in the 1903 FA Cup Final

London to be faced by no less formidable a figure than Lord Kinnaird, the red-bearded Old Etonian who had figured majestically in so many FA Cup Finals, and whose robust play was famous and feared. When his wife once told one of his colleagues that she was afraid that one day he would come home with a broken leg, the answer was: "Don't worry, it won't be his own."

Kinnaird was no more responsive than Wall. "It was like beating the air," lamented Guerin. At FIFA's silver jubilee, the Frenchman would say: "Britain's attitude has been incomprehensible to me, and I am afraid that it will remain so as long as I live."

Not everyone in Britain was as insular as members of the FA. In 1907, the weekly *Football Chat* wrote prophetically: "Whether the Continent as a whole will possess clubs of the calibre of our best it is impossible yet to foresee, but if such should ever be the case, then will football prove to be the biggest thing in games this world has ever seen."

Strength and style from the Danes

The Danes especially had got off to a swift start, their Football Association being founded in 1889. Their well-built, athletic international teams were good enough to reach the finals of the Olympic tournament in London in 1908 and in Stockholm in 1912, each time giving a very strong England team a good run for their money. Interestingly, the Danes, despite their physical prowess, were early Continental converts to a more sophisticated style.

This derived from a tour made in Denmark by Queen's Park, the celebrated Glasgow amateurs and doughty pioneers of the FA Cup, who even subsidised the purchase of the original trophy. Their close passing game, which was, after all, first developed in Scotland, inspired the Danes, who combined strength with skill in the ensuing years. The tradition that would produce Carl Praest, John Hansen and the Laudrups had begun.

The Lipton Trophy was first contested as early as 1905, and the principal footballing countries of South America also took to the Scottish style. The Brazilians, however, would not really take off until the early 1930s, when they at last dropped their discrimination against black players. It was not only a racist policy but a deeply self-defeating one, for black players would utterly transform the Brazilian game with their exceptional ball skills, fine athleticism and explosive movement.

No British coach did more to develop the game in Europe than Jimmy Hogan, a little Lancastrian from Nelson and a disciple of the classical Scottish game; he had learned, almost literally, at the feet of Scottish professionals when he was playing for Fulham.

Hogan's first coaching assignment came in Holland in 1910 at Dordrecht. Two years later, he was appointed coach to the nascent Austrian international team, in Vienna.

He made an uneasy beginning, his first day, coaching the Amateur Sports Club, being a failure. "I was standing there," he said, "and I could see that everybody was disappointed, but what could I do? I had showed them what I showed people at home."

In stepped the dynamic Hugo Meisl, the father of Austrian football, a dynamic Jewish banker who inspired Hogan in a series of long conversations. Hogan went on to prepare the Austrian team who were due to go to the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. Who could ever have guessed that fully 24 years later, he would enjoy signal success with another Austrian team, consisting largely of half-starved players who had to be built up, at the Olympics in Berlin?

Between them, Meisl and Hogan perfected the so-called Vienna

Formidable...Lord Kinnaird

School of football, directly derivative of the classical Scottish game, with the ball being kept on the ground and an emphasis placed on control.

Hogan would go on to coach with huge response in Hungary, where he found himself interned during the Great War. He was a prophet largely without honour in his own country, though he did briefly manage Fulham and Aston Villa and set up the first FA

Key dates

April 20, 1901
The first 100,000 attendance (110,802) at the FA Cup Final, played at Crystal Palace.

May 16, 1901
Argentina beat Uruguay 3-2 in the first international between South American countries.

1902
Real Madrid formed under an English manager, Arthur Johnson. Fluminense formed under another English manager, Arthur Cox.

April 5, 1902
Ibrox Park stadium disaster, Scotland: 25 killed when part of a new wooden stand collapses at Scotland v England match.

October 12, 1902
Austria beat Hungary 5-0 in Vienna, the first European international played outside Britain.

May 21, 1904
FIFA formed in Paris with seven members (Belgium, France, Holland, Denmark, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland). Robert Guerin elected first president.

1905
England joins FIFA.

A grand...Alf Common

Boca Juniors formed. Goalkeepers ordered to stay on the goal-line at penalties.

February 1905
First £1,000 transfer: Alf Common, from Sunderland to Middlesbrough.

August 15, 1905
Argentina and Uruguay share the first Lipton Cup, named after English tea baron Sir Thomas Lipton, after drawing 0-0 in Buenos Aires.

1906
Daniel Woolfall, an Englishman, succeeds Robert Guerin as president of FIFA.

June 6, 1908
England travel to Vienna to beat Austria 6-1 in their first international on foreign soil.

October 24, 1908
Great Britain win first Olympic Games title at

coaching courses shortly before World War Two.

He was guest of honour in November 1953 when the Hungarians smashed England's unbeaten home record against foreign teams but his invitation to the Royal Box came not from the FA. It came from the Hungarians, who had never forgotten him.

Olympic success for England

The 1908 Olympic tournament was played in Shepherd's Bush, West London, at the new White City stadium. The Great Britain team, favourites and winners, consisted wholly of Englishmen, most of them members of leading First Division teams. Among them was the Reverend K R G Hunt of Wolves, famous for his shoulder charges, and Vivian Woodward, a star for both Spurs and Chelsea, who was one of the most accomplished players of the day. But the Dutch and Danes gave England's team, for such it was, some strong competition.

The French, by contrast, were still a very long way behind. Surprisingly, they were allowed to enter two teams, but each disintegrated.

Football Chat had great fun with them after the B side lost 9-0 to Denmark in the first round. "The Frenchmen did not play football: they frivolled," said the weekly. "There was something exquisitely dainty in all their football. They appeared to be profoundly apologetic whenever they charged a Dane. Occasionally they got the ball. When they did, the player in possession posed for his portrait in much the same way as one would pose before a photographer. The French goalkeeper was the entertainment. His movements in the air were the poetry of picturesque motion. On his daintily shod feet he was as light as a gazelle. He caught every type of shot and never once did he strike a crude attitude. His flow of French, too! We heard him in the grandstand, shouting to his compeers. He was the Napoleon of his side. I shall remember M. Desrousseaux by his beard. It was a decoration which I felt sure is destined to win him notoriety anywhere in England."

The France A team fared even worse in their semi-final against the Danes, letting in no fewer than 17 goals, although they did manage to score one. It was even reported that they smoked in the dressing-room at half-time! The intention had been to have a consolation tournament, but the French were evidently inconsolable. After their second humiliation, they went straight home.

In the other semi-final, Great Britain put four without reply past a much-improved Dutch team, well coached by Edgar Chadwick, a former England international. All of the home side's goals were scored by the fragile but highly effective centre-forward, Harry Stapley of Glossop.

In the Final, the Danes, who finished each match with half a dozen hurrahs, were highly impressive. They enjoyed more of the play but suffered from a Continental failing which for years to come would preserve England's record at home: they couldn't finish. So Great Britain won 2-0.

The Danes were subsequently brought to earth when a Fulham team consisting largely of reserves beat them 6-3 at Craven Cottage.

In 1912 Denmark reached the Final against the English once again. Again they lost by a two-goal margin, but for much of the game injury reduced them to 10 men.

Enter Pozzo and Meisl

Little noticed at the time, Vittorio Pozzo took an Italian team to Stockholm. It was a last-minute affair. His decision to cut down a top-heavy Italian championship "which included more clubs than there were weeks of the year" had caused a split in the Italian Football Federation, of which he had become secretary.

Tactical nous...Charlie Roberts

Almost on the eve of the Olympic tournament, the federation's president asked Pozzo to take a team to Sweden. "We cannot withdraw," he said. "Go and do your best."

In the circumstances, it was a surprisingly good best. The Italians lost to Finland in the preliminary round, but only by the odd goal of five, after extra time, and then beat Sweden, the hosts, 1-0 in the consolation tournament. Though they then crashed 5-1 to Austria, the tie brought about a meeting between Pozzo and Meisl. The two became close friends, and they became the dominating figures in European football up to the Second World War.

Pozzo, a Piedmontese and devoted mountain man, had learned about football in England. His parents eventually demanded that he return to Turin, but he refused and, when they cut off his allowance, earned his keep by teaching foreign languages all over the Midlands.

Shyly, he would wait outside Manchester United's and Derby County's grounds to speak to two of the Titans of that era, Charlie Roberts and Steve Bloomer. The tactics he was later to introduce to the Italy team were based on what he derived from those conversations.

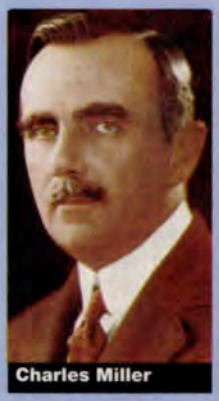
While British football went over almost slavishly to the third-back game, with its stopper, after the 1925 change in the offside law, Pozzo's Italy continued with the old system of using a roving centre-half, and won two World Cups in the process.

Men of the Century

Shepherd's Bush, beating Denmark 2-0 in the Final.

June 12, 1910
Argentina win first South American championship, beating Uruguay 4-1 in a three-team tournament in Buenos Aires.

July 4, 1912
England beat Denmark 4-2 in the Final of the Olympic Games soccer tournament in Stockholm.


Charles Miller

One hundred people who shaped the century of soccer

1 Charles Miller
Born in Sao Paulo, the son of English immigrants. Studied in England and, after playing for Southampton, returned to Brazil and founded Sao Paulo Athletic Club. Acknowledged as the true inspiration of the game in Brazil.

2 Alexander Hutton
Englishman who emigrated to Argentina and founded the Argentinian FA in 1891, also starting a league there in the same year.

3 C A W Hirschman
Dutch banker who instigated the inaugural meeting of FIFA in Paris in 1904.

4 Artur Friedenreich
Believed to hold the world goalscoring record – 1,329 between 1909 and 1935. Broke new ground as the first black footballer to represent Brazil.

5 Robert Guerin
Frenchman, journalist and administrator, one of the founders of FIFA in 1904, and its first president.

Artur Friedenreich

6 Daniel Woolfall
Englishman who succeeded Guerin as FIFA president in 1906.

Mobbed...thousands swarmed on to the pitch at Wembley before the FA Cup Final of 1923

By the end of the Great War in 1918, British superiority was starting to slip away. A strong British amateur side went to Antwerp for the 1920 Olympic Games. "We are not likely to have it all our own way," warned FA secretary Frederick Wall. Nor did they; they were beaten 3-1 in the first round by Norway, though it must be said that the Great Britain team were thrown together almost casually. Before they set out for Belgium – eventual winners of the tournament – they barely knew one another.

The Czechs should have been runners-up, but their players walked off the field during the Final in protest at one of their men being sent off.

The following year it became plain that the French frivolled no longer. They felt they had no chance against an England amateur team who had beaten them the last seven times out, but to their delight and astonishment they won 2-1.

The French newspaper *L'Intransigeant* put it well: "Slowly the play has fashioned itself after our own character, our own intelligence, our own physical make-up. At first unconsciously, then more and more consciously and deliberately, an effort has been made at originality, or above all, freedom and independence. Its reward was conferred yesterday."

There would be many others. In 1923, *Sports* of Barcelona opined: "We believe that the stronger European teams may be compared with the best British elevens, and if the latter have any advantage over them it is certainly not in the quality of their play but in vigour, experience and better training, points which, though not neglected by the better class Continental elevens, are not so conspicuous in these as in the former. The fact of being recognised professionals, and of being solely and only football players, entitles the clubs to demand more from them in this respect."

A Viennese critic, Herr Lenthe, went further still: he condemned the British game for "indescribably poor combination" and monotony, thanks, he believed, to routine and conventional tactics.

Appealing to the masses

In Britain, the game was as popular as ever. Even well before the Great War, the FA Cup Final, when moved to the old Crystal Palace arena, regularly attracted crowds of more than 100,000. In April 1923, double that number probably attended the first FA Cup Final at Wembley stadium, between Bolton and West Ham. Thousands swarmed over the walls, but the pitch was eventually and historically cleared with the major help of a mounted policeman on a white horse.

The game was played with fans crowded round the touchline; one Hammer said drily that the best pass he received all afternoon came from a spectator!

In 1925 came the massively significant change in the offside law, implemented in the most perfunctory manner, after just one trial game at Highbury. However, it had been clear that some kind of change had to be made. The rule up until that time dictated that when the ball was played an attacker would be onside only if he had three defenders (including the goalkeeper) between him and the goal-line. This had led to a cynical exploitation of the law, especially by Newcastle United.

There, that wily Ulsterman Billy McCracken and his fellow full-back, Frank Hudspeth, had got the offside game down to a fine, or black, art. Sneakily, they would move upfield, putting the opposing forwards offside. So much so that the probably apocryphal tale was told that when a visiting team reached Newcastle railway station and heard a guard blow his whistle, one player remarked: "Blimey, offside already!"

In those days, British associations,

Key dates

July 1916
South American Federation CONMEBOL formed during the second South American Championship, which was won by Uruguay.

1920
Belgium win the Olympic football tournament. They were leading Czechoslovakia 2-0 in the Final when the Czechs walked off the pitch in protest at strict refereeing by Englishman John Lewis.

1921
Jules Rimet is elected FIFA president.

April 28, 1923
First Wembley FA Cup Final: Bolton 2 West Ham 0.

1924
Goal can be scored direct from corner kicks.

April 12, 1924
First Wembley international: England 1 Scotland 1.

June 9, 1924
Uruguay win the Olympic soccer title in Paris, easily beating Switzerland 3-0 in the Final.

1925
Offside change: a player needs two, not three, opponents between him and goal to stay onside.

1927
In central Europe, Sparta Prague win the first Mitropa Cup, beating Rapid Wien in the two-legged Final.

1928
The four home countries withdraw from FIFA.

March 31, 1928
Scotland's 'Wembley wizards' beat England 5-1.

May 5, 1928
Everton's Dixie Dean finishes the 1927-28 season having scored a record 60 goals.

June 10, 1928
Uruguay win the Olympic Games soccer title after beating Argentina 2-1 in the Final replay in Amsterdam.

October 1928
World record transfer: David Jack moves from Bolton to Arsenal for £10,890.

Record...David Jack

notably the FA, called the shots; indeed they would dominate the rule-making International Board with a majority of four to two until well after the Second World War. The FA, essentially, decreed that in future, only two rather than three defenders would be sufficient to put a man onside. This change was implemented at the start of season 1925-26.

At first there was chaos. Arsenal, oddly enough playing at Newcastle under their new manager, Herbert Chapman, let through seven goals. Something had to be done before they played at West Ham a few days later. Was it Chapman, who had guided Huddersfield Town to such great success before arriving at Highbury, or Charlie Buchan, the veteran inside-right and captain he had signed from Sunderland, who 'invented' the third-back game?

Claim to fame...Charlie Buchan (left) – inventor of the third-back game?

Architect of success...Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman (left)

Buchan always insisted to me that it was his suggestion. Charlie Spencer, an England international centre-half, told me that in the seven-goal game at St James' Park he had functioned as a third-back.

In any event, Arsenal deployed their new tactics at Upton Park, using centre-half Jack Butler as an out-and-out central 'stopper', and did well. Now the wing-halves would move from the flanks into the middle, just behind the two inside-forwards, themselves in the rear of two wingers and a centre-forward: the so-called WM formation which would endure until Brazil won the 1958 World Cup with 4-2-4.

Arsenal start their rise

How much harm did the new tactics do to soccer, and were they unavoidable? Hardly, given the fact that the Italian national side did so well without them in the 1930s, and that for decades to come, the so-called WM did not catch on in South America. But the growing success of Arsenal, no more than a modest club until Chapman took over and promoted to the First Division in 1919 despite having finished only fifth in the Second Division in the last pre-war season, stampeded almost every other leading club into following suit.

Chapman used to tell his teams that they went out on to the field with at least a point. Should they not concede a goal, they would come off with at least a point.

Counter-attack became Arsenal's watchword, as they became more

Men of the Century

1929
Goalkeepers ordered to stay on goal-line until penalty is kicked.

May 1929
FIFA Congress decides that the first World Cup should take place in Uruguay.

September 1929
The *Liga calcio*, Italy's first national league, is launched.

Jimmy Hogan

7 Jimmy Hogan
English coach who took skilled modern football to central Europe in the early part of the century.

8 Hugo Meisl
The errant son of a Viennese banker who chose football ahead of the family business, and went on to become one of the dominant figures in pre-war continental football.

9 Herbert Chapman
The first great innovative manager of world football who won English League title hat-tricks with both Arsenal and Huddersfield. Created the WM formation.

10 David Orellano
Founder member of Magallanes and then Colo Colo, two of the early clubs in Chile.

11 Jules Rimet
French president of FIFA from 1921 to 1954 who brought FIFA and world football through their adolescent years and moved the world body to the neutral haven of Zurich. He was the driving force behind the staging of the first World Cup finals in 1930.

12 King Carol of Romania

Romania's King Carol

Football fan who played a large part in the staging of the first World Cup.

and more powerful and successful through the 1930s. Cliff Bastin, alias Boy Bastin, a prodigy at 17, a great outside-left and almost as good an inside-left, once told me that the Gunners grew worried when they had a lot of the play.

He and Joey Hulme were what came to be known as raiding wingers; Alex James, the master passer, fed them; and up front there was a fast, physically strong centre-forward – Jack Lambert, then Ted Drake. It was football that worked – Arsenal in 1933 even beat the full Austria team at Highbury – but it was not always pretty to watch.

That, however, was how the English game was going, and three decades later that was how Helenio Herrera's Inter dominated Italian and European football for a while. By then they called the counter-attacking style *catenaccio*: bolt defence with a sweeper.

Uruguay to the fore

The 1924 Olympic tournament in Paris showed what colossal progress had been made by foreign countries, above all by tiny Uruguay. Their immensely gifted, technically adroit team would win both that competition, beating Switzerland 3-0 in the Final, and the subsequent one in Amsterdam, four years later.

Although their population was so tiny, Uruguay seemed to be able to produce brilliant footballers ad infinitum. Their stamina was perhaps not as evident as their technique, but they had gloriously gifted attackers in the red-headed Hector Scarone and the eccentric Pedro Petrone, a fine right-back in Jose Nasazzi, and an elegant right-half in Jose Andrade, whose nephew, Rodrigues Andrade, would prove a star in the 1950 and 1954 World Cups.

At the 1928 Olympics, Uruguay were pressed very hard by the team they would meet and beat in the first World Cup Final two years later; their rivals from across the River Plate, Argentina. Uruguay needed a replay to take the trophy, 2-1.

No British team competed, the British associations having left FIFA after a row over 'broken time' payments to amateurs. Not that there were too many amateurs to be found at the upper levels of those Olympic tournaments. It was pretty clear that football had outgrown the amateurism of the Olympics; a World Cup was on the way.

Italy were unlucky to lose to the Uruguayans in Holland, going down 3-2 in the semi-finals. Fulvio Bernardini, their gifted attacking centre-half – eventually discarded in favour of the thuggish Argentinian, Luisito Monti – spoke honestly about the team's status. Italy had left two of their best players behind, because they were pros. Bernardini was scornful: "Professionals? Of course. But what about all the rest of us who had the good fortune to be chosen; what were we? How did we earn our living?"

Britain sits it out

In retrospect, it was perverse and ultimately self-destructive of the British associations to leave FIFA, not to return until 1946. They initially had resigned after the Great War – rejoining briefly four years later – on the grounds that the association was growing too powerful at their expense. This was not wholly unreasonable, because the Germans, somewhat impertinently given the state of football's development there, had proposed that voting on the International Board – then 4-1 in Britain's favour – be reversed.

French innovator...Henri Delaunay

Founding figure...World Cup begetter Jules Rimet (left)

So the first World Cup, like the previous two Olympic tournaments, took place without British participation. Indeed, the home countries would not play in the tournament until 1950.

The idea for a World Cup had long been in the pipeline and was often discussed at FIFA meetings. In 1920, the FIFA Congress in Antwerp, held in conjunction with the Olympic Games, adopted it in principle. At the 1924 Olympics in Paris, there was further discussion which took the notion forward.

In 1926, at the FIFA Congress, the hard-working, innovative secretary of the French Football Federation, Henri Delaunay, who with the FFF president Jules Rimet

Key dates

July 13-30, 1930
The first World Cup finals, held in Uruguay.

July 30, 1930
Uruguay win first World Cup, beating Argentina 4-2 in the Final in Montevideo.

1932
FIFA moves its headquarters from Paris to Zurich.

January 1932
World record transfer: Bernabe Ferreyra from Tigre BA to River Plate, £23,000.

January 6, 1934
Sudden death of Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman.

May 27-June 10, 1934
The second World Cup finals, held in Italy.

June 10, 1934
Italy win their first World Cup, beating Czechoslovakia 2-1 in the Final in Rome.

November 14, 1934
The Battle of Highbury, England 3 Italy 2.

February 17, 1937
Hugo Meisl dies.

May 14, 1938
England beat Germany 6-3 in Berlin, having given their infamous Nazi salute before the match.

June 4-19, 1938
The third World Cup finals, held in France.

June 19, 1938
Italy win their second World Cup, beating Hungary 4-2 in the Final in Paris.

Italy's Cup...1938

1939
All normal competitions are suspended in Britain because of the outbreak of the Second World War.

November 3-29, 1945
Moscow Dynamo's tour of Britain.

March 9, 1946
33 are killed and 500 injured as a wall and crowd barriers collapse at Bolton's FA Cup tie against Stoke.

was the true begetter of the World Cup, announced: "Today, international football can no longer be held within the confines of the Olympics; and many countries where professionalism is now recognised and organised cannot any longer be represented there by their best players."

In 1928, at the Amsterdam Congress of FIFA, Delaunay's motion that a World Cup be organised at once was adopted.

The World Cup is born

Interestingly, no fewer than five out of the 30 countries represented voted against the idea, including Norway, Sweden and Denmark. An organising committee was formed, which included the dynamic Hugo Meisl. There were five applicants to stage it: Uruguay, Italy, Holland, Spain and...Sweden!, who, having voted against the project, would have to wait till 1958.

Uruguay generously offered to pay all travel expenses for the competing teams – quite a sacrifice for a country of just two million souls. Their consecutive triumphs in the Olympic Games spoke strongly in their favour, added to which the country would, at the proposed time of the tournament, be celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Finally, the Uruguayans promised to build a new Centenary stadium for the event. It would not be finished in time; but then nor would be the colossal Maracana stadium in Rio when Brazil played hosts two decades later.

In May 1929, when the FIFA Congress was held in Barcelona, all other applicants graciously withdrew; Uruguay had prevailed. But at a cost. To sail from Europe to Uruguay took three weeks, and major powers such as Spain, Hungary, Italy and Germany snubbed the tournament, to the bitter resentment of the Uruguayans, who themselves boycotted the next two World Cups, held in Europe.

The Belgians and Romanians agreed to go. King Carol of Romania, a keen soccer fan, personally visited the various British oil companies which then dominated his home country's industry, begging time off for the players they employed.

The United States sent a team largely composed of British former professionals, large men who were nicknamed the shot-putters by the French. For all that, they would reach the semi-finals, when they were thrashed by Argentina.

The Argentinians had been given a very hard fight in their first group game by a resilient French team, captained by wing-half Alex Villaplane, who was shot at the end of the Second World War for the atrocities he committed with the notorious collaborationist *milice*.

A fine performance by Marcel Pinel, the 21-year-old French centre-half, frustrated the abrasive Monti, despite the fact that Pinel would later complain he never went into a tackle with the Argentinian "without receiving some kind of a gratuitous blow". But it was Monti, when Pinel took a pace to his right, unsighting his fine keeper, Alex Thepot, who scored the winner from an 81st-minute free-kick.

One up...Dorado scores Uruguay's first in the 1930 World Cup Final

The tournament was divided into four qualifying pools, the winner to attain the semi-finals. With further victories against Mexico, 6-3 (three goals for their prolific centre-forward and later team manager, Guillermo Stabile), and Chile, 3-1, Argentina won Pool 1. There were four teams in that group, only three in the others, making it something of a precursor to the 1950 tournament when, amazingly in retrospect, only 13 teams contested the tournament!

An impressive Yugoslav team won both their matches in Pool 2, as did the Uruguayans in Pool 3. Though Petrone was no longer there, and the celebrated goalkeeper, Mazzali, had been thrown out for breaking curfew, the team still brimmed over with talent.

Peru gave them a hard game, beaten only by 'One-armed' Castro's second-half goal, but Romania were beaten 4-0, and Yugoslavia crushed 6-1 in the semi-final. Three of those goals went to the inside-left, Pedro Cea. The USA, though flattened by Argentina, had beaten Belgium and Paraguay, both 3-0, in their group games.

First Final is a River Plate derby

The Final, then, predictably, would be between the old rivals of the River Plate, Uruguay and Argentina. "Victory or death!" chanted Argentina's supporters as they waited for the boats to take them across to Montevideo. There were huge fears of violence, a large troop deployment, but in the event all passed off peacefully.

Uruguay won a thrilling game 4-2, after being 2-1 down at half-time to goals by Peucelle, Argentina's right-winger, and Stabile, 'The Infiltrator', who ended as top scorer of the tournament with eight.

Outraged Argentina fans stoned the Uruguayan consulate in Buenos Aires and dispersed only when the police fired over their heads. Welcome to the World Cup.

Men of the Century

May 1946
Home countries – England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland – rejoin FIFA.

May 4, 1949
The cream of Italian football is wiped out when an aircraft carrying the entire Torino team home from Lisbon crashes into a hill at Superga, near Turin.

13 Enrique Buero
Uruguayan diplomat who proposed that his country not only host the 1930 World Cup but also meet the expenses of the competing nations.

14 & 15 Billy McCracken & Frank Hudspeth
Newcastle defenders whose effective use of the old offside law made for sterile games and was a key factor behind the rule change of 1925.

16 Charlie Buchan
Outstanding inside-forward for Sunderland and Arsenal who many credit with the move – introducing the 'stopper' centre-half – that turned soccer into a defensive game. Retired to become a journalist and broadcaster.

Charlie Buchan

17 Vittorio Pozzo
A giant figure in Italian football history. Masterminded Italy's triumphs at the 1934 and 1938 World Cups and 1936 Olympic Games.

18 Henri Delaunay
French federation secretary who first raised the idea of a European Championship in 1927 and was an enthusiastic advocate of the creation of UEFA. The European Nations Cup was named in his honour.

Vittorio Pozzo

Goals galore...Dixie Dean scored 60 for Everton in 1927-28

England, their structure so amateurish by comparison with what was going on in Europe – Pozzo in Italy, Meisl and Hogan in Austria – remained inviolate at home but vulnerable abroad. There was no team manager; sides were picked by a group of selectors, i.e. club directors.

Scotland were the chief opposition and how formidable they were! In April 1928, the so-called Wembley Wizards took England apart, to the tune of 5-1. This was classical Scottish football at its consummate best. The tallest member of the attack was the right-winger, Alex Jackson, at 5ft 7in.

The line was led by the remarkable Hughie Gallacher, a centre-forward too easily provoked, too often in his cups, but wonderfully gifted. The story goes that when he was with Chelsea, a visiting team, due to play at Stamford Bridge next day, were walking down the nearby King's Road when a man was thrown out of a pub on to the pavement. As they tried to avoid his prone body, they realised it was Gallacher. The following afternoon he tore their defence to shreds.

The inside-left was Alex James, due to join Arsenal and become their mastermind the next year. His partner on the left wing was 'The Wee Blue Devil', the fleet-footed Alan Morton, who had perfected his ball control by constantly trying to kick a tennis ball through a hole in the family coal shed.

Wunderteam comes close

In 1932, Meisl and Hogan took Austria's so-called Wunderteam to Stamford Bridge, its attack led by the elusive 'Man of Paper', Mathias Sindelar, and so nearly broke England's unbeaten record at home to teams from outside the British Isles.

Wunderbar...Mathias Sindelar

The Saturday before the game, Hogan took his players to watch Chelsea play Everton at the Bridge, where they were all appalled by the unadventurous quality of the play.

All the teams did, complained Hogan, many years later, was bang the ball down the middle to their centre-forwards – sturdy little Gallacher for Chelsea, Dixie Dean for Everton; the man who set an astonishing record in season 1927-28 with 60 League goals.

When the national teams met, Austria's elegant football caused England all kinds of trouble, but in the end, the home team won 4-3. However, in 1931, both Scotland and England had crashed to humiliating defeat on the Continent.

Key dates

1950-1954
The Colombian football federation is suspended by FIFA for organising a breakaway league which operates without clubs receiving transfer fees for players.

June 24-July 16, 1950
Fourth World Cup finals, held in Brazil. England humbled 1-0 by USA in group match.

July 16, 1950
A world record crowd of 203,500 at Rio's Maracana stadium see Uruguay beat favourites Brazil 2-1 in the deciding game to win their second World Cup.

December 13, 1950
Scotland suffer their first defeat at home by a foreign team when they lose to Austria, 1-0.

July 1952
World record transfer: Hans Jepsson, amateur to Napoli, £52,000.

August 2, 1952
Hungary win the Olympic Games football tournament, beating Yugoslavia 2-0 in the Final in Helsinki.

November 25, 1953
The Magical Magyars of Hungary beat England 6-3 at Wembley, England's first home defeat by a non-British Isles team.

Pricey...Schiaffino

1954
Rodolphe Seeldrayers is elected FIFA president. Asian Football Confederation formed.

May 23, 1954
Hungary beat England, much changed but no better, 7-1 in Budapest.

June 15, 1954
UEFA formed in Basle, comprising 25 federations.

June 16-July 4, 1954
Fifth World Cup finals, held in Switzerland.

July 4, 1954
West Germany win their first World Cup, beating Hungary 3-2 in the Final in Berne.

July 1954
World record transfer: Juan Schiaffino, Penarol to Milan, £72,000.

France fell England

For England the first loss in Europe had come two years earlier when, on a roasting hot day in Madrid, a somewhat below-strength team went down 4-3 to Spain. But to lose 5-2 in Paris, when France had never even drawn with England at professional level, was a catastrophe. According to the German football magazine *Der Kicker* the result "fell like a bombshell over the Continent".

Before the game, the celebrated French journalist and innovator Gabriel Hanot, begetter post-war of the European Cup and one-time selector of the national team, wrote: "Our team has no hope of winning." He added that the French crowd were looking forward to an English demonstration of the finer points of play.

But though England put out what looked a strong team, with the famous partnership of Tommy Cooper and Ernie Blenkinsop at full-back, and Pongo Waring, Aston Villa's formidable centre-forward, their approach to the game was typically slapdash. The players had not trained for 10 days, nor was advice sought from Peter Farmer, the Englishman then managing Racing Club de Paris, who had two players in the French side.

"I could plainly see what beat our team was their tactics," Farmer said later. "Surely after this disaster my countrymen at home will waken up to the fact that the Continentals are providing opposition of a formidable nature."

Some chance. A H Kingscott, the FA representative in charge, confessed that the French "were yards faster than our men, their passing was better and their goalkeeper was infinitely superior". But he blamed England's debacle on the fact that the French were in better physical condition! Nonsense. The French selector, Gaston Barreau, pointed out, pungently, that his team had got together only on the eve of the match.

Modestly he insisted that they did not regard their own players as the equals of English professionals: "They are satisfied with the victory, and nothing more."

Beaten...Zamora v England, 1931

Within a week of England's defeat in Paris, a Scotland team devoid of players from either Rangers or Celtic – who wouldn't release them from club tours – were thrashed first by Austria, then by Pozzo's Italy.

Corriere della Sera wrote that while the Scots were "sure enough in long kicking and heading, in classic play along the ground they look like novices" – scathing comment indeed about the country who had given scientific football to the game.

Foreign teams still trembled, however, when they went to play in London. Later in 1931, Spain visited Highbury, the rabid fans battered down the gates to get in, and with renowned goalkeeper Ricardo Zamora in wretched form, England won 7-1.

Dixie Dean, who led the English attack, told me years later that at the reception in the evening, a Spanish interpreter said to him of Zamora: "He says he is nothing in Madrid," to which Dean somewhat ungraciously replied: "Tell him he's not much here!"

Roland Allen wrote in the *Evening Standard*: "If Zamora earns £50 a week [a fortune then], Hibbs [England's keeper] deserves a benefit once a fortnight." Dangerous illusions.

In Italy, after various stops and starts, Vittorio Pozzo had become *commissario tecnico*, a job he retained for 20 years. "Kind, but with a strong hand," he'd say of his stewardship. "If I let them make mistakes, I lose my authority."

His living came from journalism; a French writer once dubbed him "the poor captain of a company of millionaires". Practical psychology was his forte. When in a training game he wanted to make a player do something alien to him, he would have a few words, go away, then come back guilelessly and say: "You know, I've been thinking about it. You're right: you should do so and so." Which in fact was what Pozzo rather than the player wanted.

If two players had clashed in a club match, Pozzo's solution was to put them in the same room. When they complained he would respond: "I know about this, but we are trying to build a team. You must convince yourself this man is not an enemy but a friend."

Next morning he would look into the room and enquire: "Well, cannibals, have you eaten each other yet?", to which the answer would be embarrassed grunts. Peace had been made.

Pozzo gathers his forces

Gradually, Pozzo built a formidable team, not least with the help of the so-called *oriundi*, Argentinians who held Italian passports. One of them was the abrasive Luisito Monti, who, like the swift left-winger Raimondo Orsi, joined Juventus. Another, who went to Roma, was Enrico Guaita, outside-right or centre-forward.

"If they can die for Italy, they can play for Italy!" Pozzo proclaimed. rhetorically. Well, yes. They were certainly prepared to play, but to die? When the Italians invaded Abyssinia, Guaita and a few other *oriundi* were caught trying to sneak across the Swiss border.

All three Argentinians played a crucial part in Italy's winning of the 1934 World Cup as hosts. Many years later a curious story emerged, of how, allegedly, the Greek team Italy had to beat in an eliminating

Men of the Century

1956
Arthur Drewry, former chairman of Grimsby Town, is elected FIFA president, succeeding Belgian Rodolphe Seeldrayers.

June 13, 1956
Real Madrid beat French champions Stade de Reims 4-3 in the first European Champions Cup Final, held at Parc des Princes, Paris.

Karl Rappan

19 Lucien Laurent
Scorer of the first World Cup goal, for France against Mexico in 1930.

20 Karl Rappan
An influential player and coach with Rapid Wien, who later coached abroad and developed the 'Swiss Bolt' system of defence.

21 Peco Bauwens
Leading German administrator who kept the momentum of FIFA and World Cup development going through the 1930s.

Giuseppe Meazza

22 Guiseppe Meazza
The greatest Italian player of the inter-war period who represented both Milan and Internazionale. San Siro stadium was renamed in his honour.

23 Otorino Barassi
President of the Italian federation, who reportedly kept the World Cup trophy under his bed during the war to prevent it falling into the hands of the fascists.

24 Aldolfo Pedernera
Argentinian centre-forward who starred for River Plate before playing a leading role in luring Alfredo Di Stefano away from Argentina to Colombia's pirate league in the 1940s and 1950s.

game had been bribed to lose. Given the disparity between the sides, it hardly seemed necessary.

With Monti available, Pozzo dropped the more skilful but less physical Fulvio Bernardini. He especially wanted those long passes to the wings with which Monti, together with his ruthlessness, was associated.

Victory for Vittorio's men

Italy duly went on to win the second World Cup but as the distinguished Belgian referee John Langenus, he of the cap and leggings, said, there was an unpleasant feel about it. He would write: "In the majority of countries, the World Championship was called a sporting fiasco, because, beside the desire to win, all other sporting considerations did not exist. Also because over the whole Championship there brooded a certain spirit: Italy wanted to win – it was natural – but they allowed it to be seen too clearly."

Never so clearly as when the *azzurri* played Spain in the quarter-finals, a game that ended 1-1. Magnificent goalkeeping by Zamora kept the Italians at bay, and some felt he was fouled when Italy scored their equaliser. In any event, he was so badly knocked about by the Italian forwards that he could not take part in the replay which followed the very next day. Italy won it with a goal by the talented Giuseppe Meazza.

The South American countries barely featured. Uruguay did not go, the Spaniards knocked out Brazil in the first round, and Argentina sent a weakened side, fearful that the Italian clubs would filch more of their stars. They duly lost 3-2 to Sweden, also in the first round.

In the semi-finals, Austria, a weary team according to Hugo Meisl, went down 1-0 to Italy on a very heavy pitch in Milan, while the excellent Czechoslovakia team defeated Germany 3-1, with a hat-trick from Oldrich Nejedly.

In the Final, the Czechs gave the Italians a fright when left-winger Antonin Puc put them ahead. Orsi's equaliser was a freak, the ball soaring and swerving over the hapless Frantisek Planicka, the Czechs' captain and keeper. Angelo Schiavio, the Bologna centre-forward, got the winner in extra time.

The Battle of Highbury

The following November, Pozzo took his Italy side to play England in what came to be known as the Battle of Highbury. After several England players had dropped out, the home team contained no fewer than seven Arsenal men. Only 90 seconds had gone when Monti, in a tackle with the rugged Arsenal centre-forward Ted Drake, broke a bone in a toe and limped off, telling Pozzo "he kicked me deliberately", which seemed unlikely.

"For the first 20 minutes," Drake assured me, many years later, "we were playing the best football it was possible to play. You couldn't play any better."

Eric Brook, the powerful Manchester City outside-left, had a penalty splendidly saved by Carlo Ceresoli. But when England later were given a free-kick outside the box, Ceresoli arrogantly waved his wall away; and Brook beat him.

Brook, again, and Drake put England into a 3-0 lead, despite the Italians' flying boots. In Pozzo's view, they were "retaliating". But in the second half, the 10 Italians calmed down, though the right-half, Pietro Serantoni, deliberately elbowed the peerless England left-back and captain Eddie Hapgood, breaking his nose.

"Players who had previously run wild," wrote *The Times*, "began to run into position." Meazza scored twice, Frank Moss, Arsenal's goalkeeper, had to perform prodigies, and England scraped through, 3-2.

The Italian team went down in their own country as the Lions of Highbury. Nationalism, fascism, were at their peak then and huge harm was done to the prospect of England's international relations.

Stanley Matthews, later such an iconic figure, won his second cap in the game and was dismissed by *Daily Mail* columnist Geoffrey Simpson as having "shown the same faults of slowness and hesitation as he did in the recent Inter-League match". Perhaps, speculated Simpson, Matthews did not possess the big match temperament! Perhaps...

Through the 1930s great things were being done by little Wales, thanks to a remarkable guru, Ted

Heat of the Battle...the notorious England v Italy game at Highbury

Key dates

September 8, 1956
South Korea top the final group ahead of Israel to win the first Asian Cup held in Hong Kong.

1957
Confederation of African Football (CAF) formed.

February 16, 1957
First African Nations Cup Final: Egypt 4 Ethiopia 1.

May 30, 1957
Real Madrid beat Fiorentina 2-0 in the European Cup Final.

July 1957
World record transfer: Enrique Omar Sivori, River Plate to Juventus, £93,000.

February 6, 1958
Munich air disaster kills 19, including eight Manchester United players. The plane, carrying players, staff and journalists back from a European Cup semi-final match in Belgrade, crashes after a refuelling stop in Munich.

March 5/May 1, 1958
Barcelona beat a London Select team 8-2 over two games to win the first Inter City Fairs Cup Final.

May 28, 1958
Real Madrid win a third European Cup, beating Milan 3-2 in the Final in Brussels.

June 8-29, 1958
Sixth World Cup finals, held in Sweden.

June 29, 1958
Brazil win their first World Cup, beating Sweden 5-2 in the Final in Stockholm.

Final meeting...Brazil v Sweden, 1958

June 6, 1959
Real Madrid win the European Cup again, beating Stade de Reims 2-0 in the Final.

May 18, 1960
Real Madrid win a record fifth successive European Champions Cup after a 7-3 victory over

Robbins, officially secretary of the Welsh FA – into which he had breathed life – but virtually an inspirational team manager. It was said that when a Welsh Third Division player pulled on the red shirt, he became a hero for the afternoon.

In those days clubs had priority and did not have to release players. Once, this meant that for a midweek game away to Scotland, Robbins had to pull together a team of obscurities, who even included one man from amateur side Cardiff Corinthians. Wales went ahead, gave the Scots the fright of their lives, and were caught only by a very late equaliser.

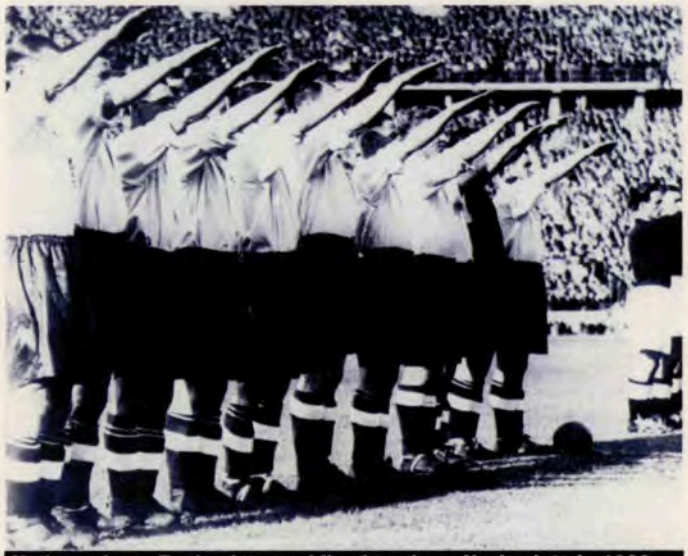
"Put your feet under the table!" Robbins would tell a nervous new player. "I'll be your daddy!" There have been few like him.

In the British International Championships of the 1930s, Wales punched a long way above their weight, sometimes winning it jointly, sometimes even winning it outright. Even when the formidable 19-year-old Everton centre-forward Tommy Lawton scored on his England debut in Cardiff in October 1938, Wales went on to win the game 4-2.

Second time around for Italy

That summer's World Cup was staged by France, the great initiators, and was won again by Pozzo's Italy.

England, though still out of FIFA, could have taken the berth left vacant by Austria, who had been swallowed by the Greater Germany team following the Anschluss. However, an invitation was refused. It would have been interesting to see how the English team, who had recently beaten France in Paris, and thrashed Germany 6-3 in Berlin after being obliged to give the Nazi salute, would have fared.



Under orders...England were obliged to give a Nazi salute in 1938

The Anschluss put an end not only to Austria as a footballing nation, but to the coruscating regime of Meisl, whose grave was ultimately desecrated by the Nazis.

Pozzo had rebuilt the Italian team, which was now thought to be a more technical one, though it still had a South American brute at centre-half in the Uruguayan Michele Andreolo. Later in the year at Highbury, playing for the Rest of the World against England, he spat at the referee, Jimmy Jewell. "Leave him, leave him!" shouted England's right-half, Ken Willingham, who duly saw justice was done.

The 1938 finals, like those four years before, were played on a single-tie knockout basis, though once more provision was made for replays. Happy days! In one, following a 1-1 draw, the Swiss knocked out so-called Greater Germany, whose left-winger, the Austrian Hans Pesser, had been sent off in the first game for kicking an opponent in the stomach. The Germans themselves suspended him from the next game.

Sepp Herberger had just begun his long reign as team manager, which would extend to 20 years, including the winning of the 1954 World Cup.

Italy could have gone out in the first round, in Marseille, where they met a resilient Norway side. Before the game the Italian team, as they were obliged to do in Mussolini's time, gave the fascist salute. This brought down on them a storm of derision from the anti-fascist dissidents. Pozzo, though no fascist, ordered his men to keep their arms extended until the tumult died.

Italy went ahead in the second minute thanks to a goalkeeping blunder, but thereafter Norway close-marked the formidable Silvio Piola, and the pendulum swung. The equally powerful Norwegian centre-forward, Brynildsen, described by Pozzo as "a cruel thorn in my crown of roses", caused the Italy defence all sorts of problems, though it was Brustad who equalised late in the second half. The Italians finally scraped through with a goal by Piola in extra time.

The Brazilians, as in 1934, were inspired by the dazzling combination of the little, acrobatic centre-forward, Leonidas, alias the Black Diamond, and inside-forward Tim. Who knows what might have happened had both played in the semi-final against Italy, in Marseille? But in their bizarre hubris, the Brazilians left them out, and Italy won.

When Pozzo went to Marseille for the game he found that Brazil had fully booked the only plane that could take the *azzurri* back to Paris; they told him they were quite sure of reaching the Final! So the Italians had to make the long, uncomfortable journey by train.

However, their 4-2 victory over Hungary in the Final, was comfortable enough, with two more goals for Piola and a couple for the outside-left, Gino Colaussi.

Men of the Century

Eintracht Frankfurt in Glasgow.

June 12/19, 1960
Penarol of Uruguay win the first Libertadores Cup, beating Olimpia of Paraguay 2-1 over two legs.

July 10, 1960
The Soviet Union win the first European Nations Cup, beating Yugoslavia 2-1 in the Final in Paris.

Santiago Bernabeu

25 Alfonso Senior
Colombian and a leading figure behind the pirate league of the 1940s and 1950s. Later became president of Millonarios and was instrumental in Colombia's bid to stage the 1986 World Cup.

26 Santiago Bernabeu
Served Real Madrid as player, captain, secretary, scout, manager and director before becoming president in 1943. The architect of the club's success in the 1950s and 1960s.

27 Gabriel Hanot
French journalist who, as editor of the daily *L'Equipe*, devised the European Champions Cup.

28 Gusztav Sebes
Hungarian coach and creator of the 'Magical Magyars' squad.

29 Sepp Herberger
Manager who led West Germany to a deserved World Cup victory over Hungary in 1954, when their opponents were such strong favourites.

30 Alfredo Di Stefano
Masterful centre-forward who combined individual brilliance with team leadership. For many, the greatest ever.

Sepp Herberger

The war inevitably disrupted football in Europe, though the German, French and Italian Leagues continued for a surprisingly long time. Inevitably there was no World Cup in 1942 or 1946, when it would have been interesting to see Argentina compete. During those years, River Plate deployed such highly talented attackers as the inside-right, Juan Manuel Moreno, and the centre-forward, Adolfo Pedernera, who led an exodus to Colombia which would notably include his brilliant clubmate, the young Alfredo Di Stefano.

The British International Championship was suspended, the only internationals played being unofficial ones between England and Scotland or Wales. Ironically, the English had an exceptional team, with the forward line of Matthews, Raich Carter, Lawton, Jimmy Hagan and the celebrated cricketer, Denis Compton, scoring eight against the Scots on one occasion.

Most of the leading footballers were co-opted into the Army or RAF physical training corps, meaning that they stayed in England, the official idea presumably being that, even as 'guest' players for various clubs (little Aldershot, at the great Army base, being a particular beneficiary), they could go on entertaining the civilian population.

Fearful threat...Stanley Matthews

Europe thrashed by Britain

In 1946, England and the other home nations at last rejoined FIFA. The following May a celebratory match took place at Hampden Park between a Great Britain XI and the Rest of Europe. Gunnar Nordahl, the big Swedish centre-forward, later such a star with Milan, scored the first goal, but England, inspired by the little blond Middlesbrough inside-forward, Wilf Mannion, replied with half a dozen.

In 1948 London staged the Olympics once more, with its soccer tournament won by the fine Swedish team, ably managed by the little Yorkshireman, George Raynor. So much attacking talent had the Swedes to call upon that the superbly versatile Nils Liedholm, an inside-left by inclination, was forced to play on the left wing. He, Nordahl and 'Professor' Gunnar Gren would later form the celebrated Gre-No-Li trio for Milan.

After a 10-year gap, during which professionals were excluded from playing for Sweden, Gren and Liedholm returned to play for their country, helping them to reach the 1958 World Cup Final in Stockholm. Liedholm, inside-left again, though he also played right-half for Milan, scored an early opening goal. Later he would manage Milan, Roma and Fiorentina.

Denmark, who defeated an excellent all-amateur Great Britain team in the third-place match, also lost most of their stars after the 1948 Olympics, as they went abroad to play professionally. John Hansen, the rangy inside-left, Karl Agge Hansen, a clever inside-right who had a spell as an amateur with Huddersfield, and left-winger Carl Praest, who set up Nordahl's goal for the Rest of Europe in 1947, all figured with Juventus.

Man United find success

Manchester United, under the inspirational managership of Matt Busby, the former Scotland wing-half who took them over at the end of the war, won the 1948 FA Cup Final against Blackpool.

United would go on to replace Arsenal as the most powerful and envied club in England. Yet when Busby took over they had not even their own ground, Old Trafford having been bombed in the war. This obliged them for years to share Maine Road with their local rivals, Manchester City.

Busby instilled in United a pleasing dedication to attack, and boldly brought in young talent.

England on their travels were formidable then. In May 1947, they went to Lisbon and thrashed Portugal 10-0. It was the first time that the Stanley Matthews-Tom Finney conundrum had been resolved by what should have been an obvious solution. Finney, the so-called Preston plumber, a superbly gifted right-winger whose left foot was actually the stronger, was beautifully balanced, a fine ball player who

Key dates

July 3/September 4, 1960
European champions Real Madrid win the first World Club Championship, beating South American champions Penarol, of Uruguay, 5-1 over two legs.

1961
A plane carrying the Green Cross team from Santiago to Osorno for the Chile Cup play-offs crashes, killing 24.

Stanley Rous succeeds Arthur Drewry as FIFA president.

Confederacion Norte-Centroamericana y del Caribe de Futbol (CONCACAF) is formed to represent the countries and federations of North and Central America and the Caribbean.

May 17/27, 1961
Fiorentina beat Rangers 4-2 over two games to win the first European Cup-winners Cup.

May 31, 1961
Benfica win European Cup, beating Barcelona 3-2 in the Final in Berne.

July 1961
World record transfer: Luis Suarez, Barcelona to Inter, £142,000.

Taking the prize...Benfica, 1961

September 19, 1961
Penarol beat Benfica 2-1 in a play-off to win the World Club Championship.

May 2, 1962
Benfica beat Real Madrid 5-3 in Amsterdam to retain the European Cup.

May 30-June 17, 1962
Seventh World Cup finals, held in Chile.

June 17, 1962
Brazil win their second World Cup, beating Czechoslovakia 3-1 in the Final in Santiago.

September 19/ October 11, 1962
Santos of Brazil beat

had served in North Africa with the Army in the war, then displaced Matthews on his return to England. Deploying both of them meant that opposing defences were exposed to a fearful threat.

The following year, in Turin, the two wingers and England rang the knell of Vittorio Pozzo's regime with a 4-0 victory. This game was notable too for an amazing first goal by Blackpool's fleet Stanley Mortensen, from a seemingly impossible angle by the right-hand goal-line.

Moscow Dynamo on tour

Despite continued success, British football had been given a warning late in 1945. That was when the remarkable Moscow Dynamo made their unforgettable tour of England. At that time there was strong pro-Russian feeling after their gallant resistance to the Nazis in the war, and when Dynamo opened their tour at Chelsea, the ground was mobbed as no English stadium had been since the first Wembley FA Cup Final. Fans swarmed in irresistibly; a paratrooper fell through the roof of the stand, and survived; and by the time the game began, people were sitting around the touchline.

A South African sports columnist on the *Sunday Express*, Paul Irwin, had dismissed Dynamo, seen in training at White City – where they spurned the generous repast that was left for them – as "a bunch of earnest amateurs, so slow that you can almost hear them think". Famous last words!

Dynamo, having presented a surprised Chelsea team with flowers, proceeded to surprise them again with sublime, flowing, tactically adroit football. The inside-forward trio of Kartsev, Beskov and Bobrov was a joy; even if the defence could never quite contain Lawton, signed recently from Everton. In the event, Dynamo's equaliser to make it 3-3 was clearly offside, though conceded by the referee, Lieutenant Commander Clark, but the performance had been revelatory.

The next weekend Dynamo went to Cardiff and beat City 10-0. Cardiff's manager, former Wolves goalkeeper Cyril Spiers, said, in awe, "they are a machine and not a football team".

Next: Arsenal at Tottenham, where they played their wartime games, Highbury having been bombed and turned into an Air Raid Precautions centre. George Allison, a fabled publicist then managing Arsenal, strove to raise a competitive team against them, enlisting Stanley Matthews, Ronnie Rooke, the rugged centre-forward from Fulham, and amateur centre-half Bernard Joy, flown back from the Continent.

That midweek afternoon thick fog descended on White Hart Lane, but the Russian referee, Nicolai Latychev, who eventually refereed the 1962 World Cup Final, insisted that play go ahead. Stranger still, he decided to station his linesmen on one side of the pitch – despite the fog! – while he patrolled the other.

One of the consequences of this was that for quite some time, Dynamo had 12 players on the pitch. They eventually won, 4-3.

They then went to Glasgow, where Rangers, eschewing the classic Scottish style for rougher, more direct methods, largely had the better of a 2-2 draw. Plans were duly made for an FA XI to meet the Russians at Wembley, but Dynamo, pointing out that they had stipulated they would play only club teams, flew home, leaving many golden memories.

Close call...Manchester United v Blackpool, 1948 FA Cup Final

Flowering talent...Moscow Dynamo take to the pitch at Chelsea

Men of the Century

Benfica over two legs to win the World Club Championship for the first time.

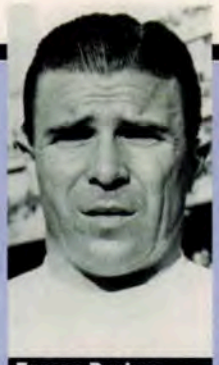
May 15, 1963
Tottenham Hotspur beat Atletico Madrid 5-1 in the Cup-winners Cup Final to become the first British club to win a European trophy.

31 Matt Busby
Scot who took over as manager of Manchester United in 1945 and created three great teams: the 1948 FA Cup-winners, the Busby Babes of the mid-1950s, who reached two European Cup semi-finals before being wrecked by the 1958 Munich air disaster, and the 1968 European Cup-winning side.

Matt Busby

32 Stanley Matthews
The original European Footballer of the Year in 1956 and the first great English footballer of the modern era. He made his last League appearance at 50, still "dribbling opponents daft".

33 Ferenc Puskas
Overweight, slow, one-footed – and one of the greatest ever. Scored 83 goals in 84 games for Hungary, and won another four caps for Spain after the Hungarian uprising.


Ferenc Puskas

34 Abdel Hamid Mohamed
Sudanese administrator who proposed that his country organise the first African Cup of Nations.

35 Duncan Edwards
A football genius who perished aged 21 as a result of the 1958 Munich air disaster. A symbol of football's lost talent.

Brazil lose out at home

The 1950 World Cup, though it produced perhaps the most thrilling, intense deciding match there has ever been – it was not, technically, the actual Final – was a curiously haphazard affair. Nowadays, a country would commit virtual murder to reach the finals. Yet in 1950 only 13 of the permitted 16 took part.

The sullen Argentinians decided to snub Brazil. The Austrians, though they recently had beaten Italy in Vienna, announced that their team was too young. The Czechs perversely refused to attend; as did Scotland.

Top tip...Uruguay's Roque Maspoli during the 1950 World Cup decider

Through FIFA's generosity, the British International Championship also functioned as a qualifying group for the World Cup, and Scotland's second-place finish behind England in the most recent edition meant that they also were entitled to go to Brazil.

However, in a display of monumental hubris, the Scottish FA had decided that they would participate only if they won the British Championship. In the ultimate game they lost 1-0 to the English at Hampden, the goal scored by the fluent Chelsea centre-forward Roy Bentley. His captain, Billy Wright, then pleaded for Scotland to go to Brazil but in vain.

Even the French, the true inventors of the World Cup, withdrew, appalled by the vast distances a ludicrous programme would have forced them to travel.

In the event, the competition began with four qualifying groups, one of which consisted only of feeble Bolivia and the eventual winners, Uruguay, who won 8-0.

A vast new stadium, Maracana, with a 200,000 capacity, had been built in Rio. It was full for the final game of the final group, which would decide the destination of the World Cup. Brazil, needing only a draw, started as firm favourites and went ahead just after the break through Friaca. But, inspired by captain Obdulio Varela, Uruguay drove forward. Juan Schiaffino headed home the equaliser, and with 11 minutes remaining, right-winger Alcide Ghiggia scored the goal that brought Uruguay the World Cup for the second time.

England opened their group games in the Maracana with a 2-0 win over Chile but suffered in the heat. Four days later, in Belo Horizonte, they were humiliated, with the USA's Larry Gaetjens scoring the only goal of the game.

England had missed their accomplished centre-half, Neil Franklin. He had defected only a few weeks before the tournament began, falsely telling the FA that he wanted to be with his pregnant wife.

Instead, he left his club, Stoke City, and with a Stoke colleague, the outside-right George Mountford, headed for Bogota, the capital of Colombia, then out of FIFA and therefore not bound by FIFA regulations. The Santa Fe club offered them the then huge salary of £50 a week; even in 1961 when the infamous maximum wage in England was abolished, it was only £20.

Pedernera and Di Stefano were already playing in Colombia. When the latter decided to leave for Spain, Real Madrid and Barcelona locked horns, trying to sign him. FIFA administered a judgment of Solomon, decreeing that each club should have him in alternate seasons.

Barcelona eventually waived their claim and lived to regret it. Di Stefano, the complete footballer, the exponent of Total Football long before it was invented, the quintessence of perpetual motion, would inspire Real to win the first five European Cups; a more or less benevolent dictator.

Hungary at the top

In 1952 the brilliant Hungarians finally emerged from behind the Iron Curtain, winning the Olympic

Key dates

First time...Milan's Cesare Maldini in 1963

May 22, 1963
Milan beat Benfica 2-1 at Wembley to win the European Cup, the first Italian victory in the competition.

July 1963
World record transfer: Angelo Sormani moves from Mantova to Roma for £250,000.

August 1963
A professional league, the Bundesliga, is launched in West Germany.

November 16, 1963
Santos beat Milan 1-0 in a play-off to retain the World Club Championship.

February 7, 1964
Oryx Douala of Cameroon defeat Stade Malien of Mali 2-1 to win the first African Champions Club Cup.

May 24, 1964
In Lima, Peru, 318 die and 500 are injured in a crowd riot over a disallowed goal during a Peru v Argentina Olympic tie.

May 27, 1964
Internazionale beat Real Madrid 3-1 to win the European Cup.

June 21, 1964
Spain win the European Nations Cup, beating the Soviet Union 2-1 in the Final in Madrid.

September 26, 1964
European champions Internazionale beat Argentina's Independiente 1-0 in a play-off to win the World Club Championship.

One of many...Hungary's Ferenc Puskas (dark shirt, nearest goal) scores against England in 1953

tournament in style. The supreme insularity of English football critics was shown when the sports editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Frank Coles, posed the question of what would happen were these Hungarians to meet an English club team, eager for points. The English team, he opined, would run through them! Nemesis was not far away. To be precise, in November 1953.

In May that year when the Olympic stadium opened in Rome, I saw the dazzling Hungarian team overwhelm Italy 3-0 and warned England of what would be confronting them come November. The Hungarian game plan, with Nandor Hidegkuti, the supposed centre-forward, operating behind the superb spearhead of Sandor 'Golden Head' Kocsis and the glorious, left-footed Ferenc Puskas, looked irresistible.

From the right-half position, Jozef Bozsik provided support and drive, while on the wing, Laszlo Budai and Zoltan Czibor were a formidably fast and tricky pair.

Yet the Hungarians were not irresistible, as George Raynor's Sweden proved when they drew 2-2 in Budapest a few weeks before the 6-3 win at Wembley. Raynor subsequently told me that he had decided to nullify Hidegkuti by marking him in the first half with one attacker, in the second with another; his inside-left and centre-forward. Sweden thus were not beaten, though Raynor did not have to make good his promise to "paint Stalin's moustache red" on the Budapest statue if his team won!

By contrast the scholarly Walter Winterbottom, England's first permanent manager and in charge for 16 years, was no guerilla general.

England bewildered

To this day there is confusion and controversy about the way England approached the match at Wembley. It may be significant that Winterbottom should say in one interview, many years later, that Sweden adopted no special tactics against Hungary.

Harry Johnston, the England centre-half, would later insist, to Winterbottom's wrath, that he had been given no special instructions as to how to cope with Hidegkuti's deep-lying role. Winterbottom replied that he had asked Johnston whether he wanted to close mark or stay back, and that he elected to stay back.

What's beyond doubt is that Johnston went off the field at half-time in a state of utter confusion, Hidegkuti having feinted him out of position and scored with a pile-driving right-footer after only 90 seconds.

With Gil Merrick shaky in goal and George Robb, so recently an amateur, pitchforked in to replace the injured Tom Finney on the left wing, England were taken apart. A book soon emerged in English shops: *Learn To Play The Hungarian Way*.

But the following year in Switzerland Hungary lost the World Cup Final; and in 1956, after the Hungary uprising, the team disintegrated. Puskas, Kocsis and Czibor all exploited the fact that they were touring abroad at the time with the Honved Army team, established to gobble up the leading players from their original clubs. Hidegkuti was the exception.

In subsequent years, Hungarian football steadily fell away, suggesting that there had been no great secrets, no major discoveries, about its success. In retrospect, it seems more germane to recall Winterbottom's own view that to build a great team, you must have four or five great players. These Hungary certainly had at that epoch, but great players tend to come through almost of their own accord.

There would be another fine Hungary team at the 1966 World Cup, inspired by Florian Albert, and a very good one indeed in Argentina in 1978, but that of the 1950s was surely unique.

Men of the Century

May 27, 1965
Internazionale beat Benfica 1-0 in Milan to retain the European Champions Cup.

September 8/15, 1965
Internazionale beat Independiente of Buenos Aires 3-0 at home and draw 0-0 away to retain the World Club Championship.

May 11, 1966
Real Madrid win their sixth European Cup, beating Partizan Belgrade 2-1 in the Final in Brussels

July 11-30, 1966
Eighth World Cup finals, held in England.

July 30, 1966
England win World Cup, beating West Germany 4-2 after extra time at Wembley.

Just Fontaine

36 Just Fontaine
Record goalscorer at a World Cup finals, his 13 goals for France at Sweden 1958 is unlikely ever to be beaten. After he retired, he became president of the French players' union and, briefly, national coach.

37 Vicente Feola
Manager of perhaps the world's greatest team, the 1958 Brazilians, the first to win the World Cup outside of their own continent.

38 Ernst Thomenn
President of the Swiss federation in the 1950s and an influential member of UEFA who helped to found the Inter City Fairs Cup and the InterToto Cup.

39 Ladislav Kubala
The only player to have won caps with three countries – Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Spain.

40 Francisco Gento
Outside-left, nicknamed 'El Supersonico' and the only man to have won six European Cup medals, with Real Madrid.

Terrible loss...Duncan Edwards, killed in the Munich air crash

Despite Hungary's pre-eminence during the early to mid-1950s, they did not win the World Cup in Switzerland in 1954, not even having thrashed Germany, the eventual winners, 8-3 during the group stage of the finals tournament.

True, the Germans were not at full strength. Moreover, you might say, albeit cynically, that the most important kick of the match was that with which Werner Liebrich, the Germany centre-half, lamed Puskas.

The Galloping Major was thus forced out of the tournament until the Final, in which he probably should not have played; though the goal he scored which would have made it 3-3 was very dubiously ruled out for offside by the Welsh linesman and the English referee.

Even without Puskas, the Hungarians were remarkable, Czibor taking over at inside-left for the quarter-final with Brazil with huge success.

The so-called Battle of Berne ended 4-2 to Hungary, but only the skills and authority of English referee Arthur Ellis, who sent off two Brazilians and a Hungarian, allowed this violent game to finish. Brazil, whose so-called diagonal system had, they felt, assisted the Uruguayans to hit back with two goals in the 1950 Final, were trying the third-back game, with very limited success.

Hungary then beat Uruguay in a magnificent semi-final. The Uruguayans still had the elegant Rodrigues Andrade in defence, the subtle Schiaffino at inside-left, while the mighty captain and centre half Varela, greatest hero of the 1950 success, played in the earlier games until hurt.

West Germany upset the odds

The West Germans, under Sepp Herberger, had looked better and better as the tournament progressed, with a cleverly creative skipper in inside-left Fritz Walter, a former paratrooper, who was well abetted by his brother Ottmar at centre-forward.

A truly daft system – even sillier than 1950's – decreed that the two 'seeded' teams in the four first round pools of four did not meet each other, but only the unseeded teams. The top two then proceeded to the quarter-finals, but if two teams ended level on points for second place, they played off. A madman's flytrap.

Greats shake...Fritz Walter greets Fer

Key dates

October 12/26, 1966
Penarol of Uruguay beat European champions Real Madrid 2-0 at home and away to win the World Club Championship.

1967
Alf Ramsey, England's World Cup-winning manager, is knighted. A disallowed goal sparks rioting during a Turkish League match. Forty-one people are killed as the crowds flee the stadium. Hapoel Tel Aviv defeat Selangor of Malaysia 2-1 to win first Asian Champions Cup.

May 25, 1967
Celtic beat Inter 2-1 to become first British winners of the European Cup. They complete grand slam of European Cup, Scottish League and League, Scottish and Glasgow Cups.

November 4, 1967
Racing Club of Buenos Aires beat Celtic 1-0 in a play-off to win the World Club Championship after drawing 2-2 on aggregate over two legs.

May 29, 1968
Manchester United become the first English winners of the European Cup, beating Benfica 4-1 after extra time at Wembley.

June 10, 1968
Italy win the European Nations Cup, beating Yugoslavia 2-0 in the Final replay in Rome.

June 23, 1968
74 die at Nunez, Buenos Aires. Panic breaks out during a River Plate v Boca Juniors match after Boca fans drop lighted torches on opposing supporters.

Italy's year...1968

July 1968
World record transfer: Pietro Anastasi moved from Varese to Juventus for £500,000.

September 25/ October 16, 1968
Estudiantes de La Plata of Argentina beat European champions Manchester United over two legs to win the World Club Championship.

So the Germans, despite their mauling by Hungary, marched on to the Final, going through to the quarter-finals by beating Turkey 7-2 in a play-off, overcoming Yugoslavia 2-0 and then thrashing Austria 6-1 in the semis.

Helmut Rahn proved a decisive figure. He was a bull of an outside-right who had not been chosen initially for the tournament, but was brought back at the last moment from Uruguay, where he had been on tour with his club, Rot-Weiss Essen.

In the Final, in rainsoaked Berne, the Hungarians soon went two ahead and seemed impregnable, but the remarkable West Germany team hit back three times, with two of the goals going to the irresistible Rahn. A few months later many of the German team succumbed to jaundice, which led to wry speculation about the cause. Illicit stimulants? Who can say? FIFA never investigated.

kas after the 1954 World Cup Final

Towering...Alfredo Di Stefano

The launch of the European Cup

In 1955 the European Cup began. It was another French idea, this time Gabriel Hanot's. And yet again England resorted to far from splendid isolation. In those early days it was a genuine Champions Cup, not the ludicrously over-populated fiasco it has become.

Ties, played home and away, were decided on a goal-aggregate basis, and there was even time for play-offs when the aggregate was even. The stratagem of counting 'away goals' as double and using ghastly penalty kicks to decide ties lay far in an increasingly dire future.

Chelsea, for the first and only time to date, were English champions. Alas, their chairman, Joe Mears, also was president of the Football League, and he feebly gave way to the xenophobic pressure, refusing to enter the competition. The Scots were more adventurous, and Hibernian actually reached the semi-finals. But for years the competition would be dominated by Real Madrid; and by Alfredo Di Stefano.

He claimed he had built up his astonishing stamina by running through the streets of his native Buenos Aires, and he was ubiquitous; by turns scorer, creator, even defender. He brooked no rivals. When the Brazilian master spirit Didi and the Swedish centre-forward Agne Simonsson arrived at Real, he froze them both out, though both had figured in the 1958 World Cup Final.

Santiago Bernabeu, after whom the club's new stadium was named, was a dominant, enterprising Maecenas, whose close relations with the Franco regime did no harm to him or his club. Barcelona, by contrast, were the symbol of Catalan opposition.

After Real had won a thrilling first European Cup Final in Paris, against Reims, they promptly signed the inspiration of the French team, little Raymond Kopa, who was instantly obliged to quit his creative role as deep-lying centre-forward and retreat to his original position as outside-right. Not until the 1958 World Cup finals in Sweden could he play his real part, inspiring the French to third place and his partner, Just Fontaine, to 13 goals.

Real Madrid prove the masters

Meanwhile Real won Final after European Final. In 1957, on their own ground, they comfortably beat Fiorentina 2-0, but in Brussels in 1958 a combative Milan team pushed them very hard indeed and they were lucky to win, 3-2. In 1959, in Stuttgart, there was a replay of Real v Reims, this time with Kopa on the winning side as Real beat the French champions 2-0.

Then came 1960, Real's apotheosis. In front of a huge and wonderfully appreciative crowd at Hampden Park, they annihilated Eintracht Frankfurt 7-3, after falling behind. Di Stefano, in towering form, scored three but Puskas got four.

The story goes that Puskas, a highly dominating figure, endeared himself to the Great Dictator when, with the two of them level on goals as they went into the last game of a Spanish season, he selflessly passed the ball to Di Stefano, enabling him to score and thereby top the list.

That 1960 Final would prove to be the end of Real's amazing hegemony, though they reached the Final again in 1962, a glorious match in Amsterdam against Benfica when Puskas got yet another three goals. Once, he trotted half the length of the field, put through by a typically adroit pass from Di Stefano; but Eusebio replied with a couple of goals, Benfica got five, and therefore retained the Cup they had won the season before, when they surprisingly defeated Barcelona.

Men of the Century

May 28, 1969
Milan beat Ajax 4-1 in Madrid to win the European Cup for the second time.

October 8/22, 1969
European champions Milan beat Estudiantes de La Plata 4-2 on aggregate to win the World Club Championship.

George Eastham

41 George Eastham
Led the campaign to end players' 'slave contracts'. He took legal action and the Professional Footballers Association proposed a players' strike in a bid to ensure Eastham's transfer from Newcastle to Arsenal.

42 Ebbe Schwarz
Danish president of UEFA in the late 1950s and early 1960s who oversaw the launch of such competitions as the European Championship and the Cup-winners Cup.

43 Miguel Munoz
Captain of Real Madrid when they won the European Cup in 1956 and 1957, and coach for the memorable 1960 Final win over Eintracht. He stayed on until 1973.

Danny Blanchflower

44 Danny Blanchflower
Captain of Spurs and Northern Ireland and the first man to prove that footballers can have intellectual thoughts.

45 Jimmy Hill
The only man to have been a player, manager and chairman of an English Football League club. Led the campaign to abolish the maximum wage, which achieved its goal in 1961.

Disaster...the wreckage of Manchester United's plane at Munich

Brazil finally take the prize

In the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, Brazil triumphed at last, winning the trophy that had seemed ineluctably theirs before Uruguay beat them eight years earlier, in Rio. This time they had abandoned their unhappy attempts to ape the third-back game. A 4-2 defeat by England at Wembley in 1956, which should have been far heavier, had shown how uneasy they were with the system.

England went to Sweden with a team pitifully weakened by the appalling Munich air crash the previous February, when so many young Manchester United stars died on the snowy runway, on their way back from Belgrade. Matt Busby was severely injured, but survived, recovered, and, a decade later, finally led United to the European Cup that they had defied the Football League to enter in 1956.

In the season following the crash, the League and its xenophobic secretary, Alan Hardaker, took a mean revenge, bullying the FA to veto UEFA's generous invitation to United to take part in the competition though they had not won the championship.

Of that 1958 England team, three crucial players, Duncan Edwards, the hefty, forceful, precocious 21-year-old left-half, Tommy Taylor, centre-forward, and Roger Byrne, the captain and left-back, all died at Munich.

Bobby Charlton almost miraculously survived but was clearly traumatised. England took him to Sweden but did not give him a game. Instead they bizarrely capped two newcomers, Peter Brabrook and Peter Broadbent, in a play-off against the Soviet Union, who won 1-0. Tom Finney had, alas, been injured in the opening group game, a draw against the Soviets, but England's goalless draw with Brazil in Gothenburg was a substantial achievement.

The Brazilians now played in a 4-2-4 formation, said to have been invented by their Paraguayan coach, Fleitas Solich. Four men across the back, with the inventive Didi, the master spirit of midfield, abetted by a wing-half – first Dino, then the more defensively adept Zito.

The inexhaustible powers of Mario Lobo Zagallo, the left-winger, who in the Final scored a goal and cleared off his own line, meant that the midfield often could be reinforced. Early on, neither Pele nor Garrincha played, but both came into the team who impressively beat the Soviet Union in the final group game, and stayed thereafter to play a huge part in Brazil's success.

Pele makes his mark

Much had been heard of the remarkable 17-year-old Pele before the tournament, and he would justify it in abundance. Only 5ft 8in tall, he proved to be a marvel of skill, power, athleticism and initiative, quite capable of jumping above much taller men to head spectacular goals, as he would both in the 1958 and

Up in the air...England's Colin McDonald gathers against Brazil in 1958

Key dates

November 1969
The Soccer War: El Salvador and Honduras go to war over a World Cup tie played in Mexico and won 3-2 by the Salvadorians.

May 6, 1970
Feyenoord beat Celtic 2-1 in Milan in the Final to become the first Dutch side to win the European Cup.

May 31-June 21, 1970
The ninth World Cup finals, held in Mexico.

June 21, 1970
Brazil, inspired by Pele, beat Italy 4-1 in the Azteca stadium, Mexico City, to capture the World Cup for a third time and win the Jules Rimet trophy outright.

August 26/ September 9, 1970
Feyenoord beat Estudiantes de La Plata 3-2 on aggregate to win the World Club Championship.

January 2, 1971
66 fans trampled to death and 150 injured as they tumbled down a stairway at Ibrox just before the end of the Rangers v Celtic New Year's Day game. A last-minute equaliser by Rangers led to many departing fans attempting to return to the terraces, with disastrous results.

Aftermath at Ibrox

June 2, 1971
Ajax beat Panathinaikos 2-0 at Wembley to win the European Cup for the first time.

December 15/29, 1971
Nacional of Montevideo beat Panathinaikos 3-2 on aggregate to win the World Club Championship (Ajax had refused to take part in protest at the violent nature of many of the previous encounters).

May 3/17, 1972
The Fairs Cup, now the UEFA Cup, is won by Tottenham, who defeat Wolves 3-2 over two games in the Final.

the 1970 Finals, and cool enough to juggle the ball and score in a penalty area crowded with hard opponents, as he also did in the 1958 Final.

Garrincha, the outside-right, was known to be an exceptional talent, but exceptionally unpredictable and wayward, a gifted child of nature. Eventually Nilton Santos, the left-back, and other senior players went to the manager, Vicente Feola, and persuaded him to put Garrincha in. As the team lined up before the game against the Soviet Union, Nilton

Cool finish...Pele volleys his first goal in the 1958 World Cup Final

Santos whispered to Garrincha that he must do his best, to which he replied with a smile and said: "Look at that linesman; he looks like Charlie Chaplin!" Then he proceeded to run the opposition ragged.

He did not have as easy a time in Gothenburg against Wales in the quarter-final. The Welsh had reached the finals by the back door, having been invited to play-off against Israel after the Arab countries had withdrawn, but once in Sweden they surpassed themselves. Who knows what might have happened against Brazil had their mighty centre-forward, John Charles, the pride of Juventus, been fit to play? As it transpired, only a freakish goal by Pele, in off full-back Stuart Williams, enabled Brazil to beat magisterial keeper Jack Kelsey.

Northern Ireland had astonished everyone by eliminating Italy from the qualifiers. Their former star inside-left Peter Doherty had proved an inspirational manager, and was so well supported by the eloquent captain and right-half Danny Blanchflower. But the Munich air crash deprived them of his brother Jackie, a footballing centre-half who could hardly be replaced.

The Irish gallantly got to the quarter-finals but then their tired team, after an absurdly long coach journey to Norrkoping, were thrashed 4-0 by France.

Swedes reach Final the slow way

The Swedes, under George Raynor, made steady progress. "We're the slowest team in the competition," the coach admitted, after they beat a much diminished Hungary. "If there was a relay between all the teams, Sweden would finish last; but we'll still reach the Final!" So they did.

The French went down 5-2 to Brazil and Pele's hat-trick in the semi-finals, but were badly handicapped by injury to their elegant centre-half, Robert Jonquet.

In the Final, in rainy Stockholm, Brazil quickly went behind to a goal by Nils Liedholm – whose manifest handball had led to a goal against West Germany in the semi-final. But Raynor's forecast that in such circumstances Brazil "would panic all over the show" proved unfounded. Two crosses from the byline from Garrincha, following jaguar bursts down the right, led to two goals by Vava, and Brazil were in control. Pele followed up with a couple of sensational goals, separated by Zagallo's, and the South Americans eventually ran out 5-2 winners to chants of "Samba, samba!"

Men of the Century

May 31, 1972
Ajax beat Internazionale 1-0 in Rotterdam to win a second successive European Cup Final.

June 18, 1972
West Germany win the European Nations Cup for the first time, beating the Soviet Union 3-0 in the Final in Brussels.

Raymond Kopa

46 Raymond Kopa
Star of the 1958 World Cup who won the European Cup with Real Madrid. Leader of French players in their fight for improved rights.

47 Nils Liedholm
Member, with Gunnar Nordahl and Gunnar Gren, of the Swedish Gre-No-Li trio at Milan, before a successful career as a coach with Milan, Fiorentina and Roma.

Bill Nicholson

48 Bill Nicholson
Yorkshireman who served Spurs for half a century, winning two major honours as a player and eight as manager, including the Double in 1961.

49 Bella Guttman
Much-travelled Hungarian who settled in Portugal, became coach of Benfica, and enabled the club to become the first to break Real Madrid's grip on the European Cup.

50 Carlos Dittborn
President of the Chilean federation who persuaded FIFA to hold the World Cup in Chile in 1962. When the 1960 earthquake threatened the finals, he said: "We have nothing, that is why we need the World Cup." He died a month before the finals tournament started.

After the success of Brazil in 1958, 4-2-4 would sweep European football, as the third-back game had done before it; in each case there was the suggestion of magical thinking. After all, Italy had won two World Cups in the 1930s without resorting to the WM formation, which they only belatedly discovered when Fulvio Bernardini, by then a journalist, wrote about it in 1939. The Italians called it *sistema* as opposed to *metodo*; and by the late 1950s they were addicted to what they called *catenaccio*.

This system, alias Bolt Defence, had been invented in Switzerland in the late 1940s by an Austrian coach, Karl Rappan, and, broadly, entailed using a deep defender behind markers as a libero, or sweeper. There was a heavy emphasis on counter-attack, but so there had been in Arsenal's heyday. Cliff Bastin, partner on the left wing to Alex James, once told me that when they had a lot of the play, Arsenal would worry.

Was the third-back game suddenly obsolescent? So it seemed as there was an almost Gadarene rush to desert it. By 1962, when, deprived of Pele for most of the World Cup in Chile, Brazil won the trophy again, they were playing 4-3-3, Zagallo being the tireless extra man in midfield. But then so he virtually had been in Sweden four years before. In England, 4-4-2 would follow and become the norm in the 1980s and 90s, until three at the back became fashionable, with full-backs operating as so called wing-backs. In other words, virtually how wing-halves had played, before the advent of the third-back game.

Crusader...Jimmy Hill led the fight against the maximum wage

In 1961 came the end of the infamous maximum wage in English football, thanks to a campaign masterfully orchestrated by the ex-Fulham professional Jimmy Hill, as chairman of the players' union. The battle was a fierce one, with the Football League bitterly opposed to a change.

The maximum had been reduced from £9 to £8 a week in 1919 and so it had stayed right up to the Second World War. In 1961, it was still only £20. However, freedom of contract and the footballer as millionaire still lay far into the future.

European Nations Cup gets under way

In 1960, France played host to the finals of a new competition, the so-called European Nations Cup, which came to be known as the European Championship. England initially snubbed it and surely with some reason. Even the Great Competitor himself, Vittorio Pozzo, deplored the fact that everything nowadays had to be turned into some kind of competition.

Initially the Nations Cup was pretty small beer, though at least its final stages were manageable. Only four teams qualified for the finals, competing in semi-finals, a third-place match and the Final. The Soviet Union, the eventual winners, reached the last stage by default, because Franco's Spain refused to play them.

Inevitably, perhaps, gigantism would supervene, with demanding qualifying stages introduced, and a finals tournament enlarged to 16 countries in the 1990s.

The growth of the European Nations Cup virtually rang the knell of the friendly international. Such classic games as Hungary's 6-3 victory at Wembley in 1953 and Austria's challenge to England at Stamford Bridge in 1932 became no more than a historic curiosity: as opposed to so-called 'official' internationals.

This was the more disappointing because, with the luxuriant growth of the World Cup and European Championship, and the proliferation of small footballing countries after the break-up of the Soviet Empire, so many qualifying matches became little more than a tedious exercise.

All, you might say, were more equal than others; the likes of Luxembourg, Liechtenstein and Andorra, as well as the Soviet survivors, had a right to their evanescent place in the sun.

Continental competition expands

Along with the European Cup, there also existed the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, later to become the UEFA Cup, and the European Cup-winners Cup. The Fairs Cup,

Key dates

September 6/28, 1972
European champions Ajax beat Independiente 4-1 on aggregate to win the World Club Championship.

January 16/24, 1973
Ajax win the first European Supercup, beating Rangers 6-3 on aggregate over two legs.

May 30, 1973
Ajax win a hat-trick of European Cups after beating Juventus 1-0 in the Final in Belgrade.

September 1973
World record transfer: Johan Cruyff moves from Ajax to Barcelona for £922,000.

November 28, 1973
Independiente beat Juventus 1-0 in a single match in Rome to win the World Club Championship

February 17, 1974
49 killed and 50 injured as crowds attempting to enter the Zamalek stadium in Cairo for a top club match break down barriers and a wall collapses.

Top price...Cruyff

May 17, 1974
Bayern Munich beat Atletico Madrid 4-0 in the first and so far only European Cup Final replay. The Final two days earlier had ended 1-1 after extra time.

June 1974
Joao Havelange succeeds Sir Stanley Rous as FIFA president.

June 13-July 7, 1974
10th World Cup finals, held in West Germany.

July 7, 1974
West Germany beat Holland 2-1 in Munich to win the World Cup for a second time.

March 12/ April 10, 1975
Atletico Madrid beat Independiente 2-1 on aggregate to win the World Club Championship. (Bayern

launched in the mid-1950s, was truly a bizarre idea, initially open only to clubs from cities that staged an industrial trade fair.

Louis Malle, the celebrated French film director, remarked scathingly that you might as well have a tournament confined to cities that had brothels! Nevertheless, the UEFA Cup would outlive the Cup-winners Cup, which breathed its last in 1999.

Stanley Rous, as all-powerful secretary of the FA, was an enthusiastic promoter of the Cup-winners Cup. When I once mentioned to him that in so many of the countries involved, the domestic Cup was a mere marginal distraction, he replied that he hoped the Cup-winners Cup would stimulate such competitions.

To a certain extent it did, even in Italy where, surprisingly in that land of passionate partisanship, the grinding phenomenon of League football always has been infinitely more attractive than the national Cup.

In 1963, Benfica lost the third of their three consecutive European Cup Finals, to Milan at Wembley, though largely because Mario Coluna, their key midfielder, was kicked out of a game in which substitutes still were not allowed.

Both Milan's goals were scored by the Brazilian centre-forward, Jose Altafini. He had originally been nicknamed Mazzola, after Valentino Mazzola, captain of the powerful Torino side who had been horrifically wiped out by the Superga air crash of May 1949, when the team were flying back to Turin from a friendly in Portugal. Almost the whole Italian national side perished, and it was a wonder that it was reconstituted so quickly.

Battle of Santiago...Italy v Chile at the 1962 World Cup finals

Brazil make it two in a row

Back to Chile and 1962, a Chile still to experience the horrors of Allende's misbegotten revolution and Pinochet's brutal repression. Brazil, shorn of Pele, had the astonishing Garrincha, the acclaimed right-winger who could score with a header from a corner despite his lack of height, or with a ferocious left-footed drive from far outside the box.

He proved far too much for England in the quarter-final, played in the delightful little stadium at Vina del Mar, where the sea wrack swirled in and a samba band played merrily throughout the game.

With the 24-year-old inside-left Amarildo competently replacing Pele, and equalising from the sharpest of angles in the Final against the Czechs, Brazil duly retained the World Cup.

By rights, Garrincha should not have played in the Final, in which he was untypically subdued. He had been sent off, along with Chile's No 9, Landa, in a torrid semi-final and should automatically have been suspended from the next game. However, the Brazilians brought huge pressure to bear to enable him to play.

Rous recently had been elected president of FIFA, and I remember TV commentator Kenneth Wolstenholme ringing him on the morning after the semi-final to find out the outcome of a disciplinary committee meeting.

Rous, a memorable administrator but never much concerned with the troops on the ground, replied: "Just a minute, I've got my papers here. Seven [Garrincha's shirt number] and nine.

Men of the Century

Munich, like Ajax, had declined to take part.)

May 28, 1975
Bayern Munich beat Leeds United 2-0 in Paris to win a second successive European Cup.

July 1975
World record transfer: Giuseppe Savoldi moves from Bologna to Napoli for £1.2million.

Eusebio

51 Eusebio
The first great footballer to come out of Africa (Mozambique), via Portugal, leaving a trail of goals across Europe and other parts of the world. His nickname 'The European Pele' was thoroughly deserved. Most recently a figurehead for Portugal's bid to host Euro 2004.

52 Alf Ramsey
An outstanding full-back who later became an even better manager, taking Ipswich from the Third Division to the First – and the championship – and then leading England to the World Cup in 1966.

53 Kenneth Wolstenholme
Commentator whose phrase "They think it's all over…it is now" has gone into history. He did much to make the game popular in Britain in the early days of television.

54 Antonio Carbajal
Mexican goalkeeper and the first player to have appeared in five consecutive World Cups (1950-1966).

55 Lev Yashin
Arguably the greatest goalkeeper of all time and the first Eastern European footballer to achieve popularity across the Continent.

Lev Yashin

Seven was cautioned and nine was suspended" – which was how we found out that Garrincha would play.

The Chileans had been involved in a ferocious encounter with the Italians during the group stage, in the same Santiago stadium, the Nacional, where they met Brazil. It was here that, appallingly, hundreds of prisoners would be shot after the Pinochet coup.

Herrera and the Inter years

The mid-1960s saw the rise of Internazionale under the flamboyant aegis of Helenio Herrera, an Argentinian brought up in Casablanca who had played professionally and originally managed clubs in France. In fact, in 1962 he was in charge of the Spanish World Cup team, but Alfredo Di Stefano, a naturalised Spaniard by then, was plainly reluctant to play, and without him they finished bottom of their group.

Herrera had successfully managed Barcelona, where his pre-match rituals had become well known, if not notorious. Ladislav Kubala, who played for Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Spain, had contemptuously refused to take part in them.

In Milan, Herrera established a rigid *catenaccio*, maintained iron control and bombarded his players with slogans.

In European Cup games, there was the devious support of his president, Angelo Moratti, and the serpentine Italo Allodi, who used a Hungarian refugee, Dezso Solti, for the bribery of referees.

Twice, in 1964 and 1965, Inter won the European Cup with the help of crooked refereeing at San Siro in the return leg of the semi-final. Liverpool were the victims in 1965. Tommy Smith, the tough Liverpool half-back, literally kicked the suborned Spanish referee, Ortiz de Mendibil, off the field after the game. But in 1967, in Lisbon, a fading Inter would succumb to a vibrant Celtic team, consisting almost wholly of home-grown Glaswegians and managed by the inspirational Jock Stein, once Celtic's centre-half.

In 1968, Allodi was behind Italy's contentious victory in the European Nations Cup Final in Rome, when the 1966 World Cup Final referee, Gottfried Dienst of Switzerland, refused a clear penalty to the Yugoslavs. The game thus went to a replay which Italy uncontroversially won.

They think it's all over – it is now...Geoff Hurst completes his hat-trick and England win the 1966 World Cup

England's third: the debate continues

In 1966, advised by the Soviet linesman, Tofik Bakhramov, Dienst had given England their vital third goal, in extra time, in Wembley's World Cup Final. Was it a goal, when Geoff Hurst smashed Alan Ball's right-wing cross against the underside of the West Germans' bar? Bakhramov said yes, the Germans dispute it to this day and feel they have the technological evidence to prove it.

Against that, their very late equaliser at 2-2 was tainted, because the free-kick from which it somewhat messily resulted probably should have been given to England for 'backing in' rather than against Jack Charlton.

Hurst, with three goals, was the game's hero. He had come into the team for the injured Jimmy Greaves for the quarter-final against

Key dates

October 10, 1975
Peru beat Colombia 1-0 in a play-off in Caracas to win the 31st edition of the South American Championship, renamed the Copa America and now featuring all 10 members of CONMEBOL, the South American Confederation.

May 12, 1976
Bayern Munich complete a hat-trick of European Cup wins after beating Saint-Etienne 1-0 at Hampden Park, Glasgow.

June 20, 1976
After a 2-2 draw against West Germany in the Final in Belgrade, Czechoslovakia win the European Nations Cup on penalties, the tournament's first Final shoot-out.

November 23/ December 21, 1976
European champions Bayern Munich beat Cruzeiro of Brazil 2-0 on aggregate to win the World Club Championship.

May 25, 1977
Liverpool beat Borussia Monchengladbach 3-1 in Rome to win the European Cup for the first time

Hughes of Liverpool

1978
The ban on foreign players in English football is lifted.

March 22/26, 1978
Argentina's Boca Juniors beat Borussia Monchengladbach 5-2 on aggregate to win the World Club Championship. (European champions Liverpool had declined to take part.)

May 10, 1978
Liverpool become the first English club to win successive European Cups after beating Club Brugge 1-0 at Wembley.

June 1-25, 1978
11th World Cup finals, held in Argentina.

June 25, 1978
Argentina beat Holland 3-1 after extra time in Buenos Aires to win the World Cup for the first time.

Argentina, in which he headed the only goal. With his two West Ham colleagues, the majestic skipper Bobby Moore and the clever deep left-winger Martin Peters, Hurst's contribution to England's 4-2 success in the Final was decisive.

Alf Ramsey: players' man

It was a triumph for the team's remarkable manager, Alf Ramsey, the former Spurs and England right-back, who grew up in Dagenham and had been on the books of Portsmouth and Southampton as an amateur forward before maturing, at the Dell, into an influential defender.

He took up the England post in 1962, succeeding Walter Winterbottom, and instantly did away with the selection committee. He never disguised his contempt for superfluous officials, a trait that would cost him dear in the end. But his players adored him and he always stood by them.

Xenophobic, insular and gloriously tactless at times, he was never forgiven in Latin America for saying, quite correctly, that the Argentines "acted as animals" on the occasion of that 1966 quarter-final: mobbing the referee, urinating in the dressing-room corridor, battering on the England team's door.

Ramsey was essentially a players' man, distrustful of the press, hostile to the Scots. Arriving once with the England team in Glasgow, he was greeted by an effusive Scottish journalist: "Welcome to Scotland, Sir Alf!" to which he responded: "You must be fuckin' jokin'!"

The carefully, if comically, elocuted Sarn't Major Posh accent was frequently parodied. But at Ipswich Town, where the patrician Cobbolds were paramount, he built out of largely jettisoned players a team capable of rising all the way from the Third Division to win the League championship.

Hans Keller, the ironic Viennese and admirer of Austria's 1930s Wunderteam, wrote acidly in the *New Statesman* the day before the 1966 World Cup Final: "Next week, I shall describe how England won the World Cup, and what we can do about it."

This was an implicit criticism of Ramsey's Wingless Wonders tactics, though to give Alf his due, he had tried a bevy of wingers before deciding that none of them could do the job. No right-winger could have been more devastatingly effective down the flank than Alan Ball, who completely dominated the experienced Karl-Heinz Schnellinger.

North Koreans cause a surprise

The tournament also was notable for the astonishing prowess of the North Koreans. Stanley Rous had warned, after seeing them thrash Australia in a two-leg play-off in Phnom Penh, that they were a formidable side, and so they proved. They beat the hapless Italians 1-0 at Middlesbrough, where the crowd adored them, calling them 'Us', then shocked the Portuguese in the Goodison Park quarter-final.

In 20 minutes the Koreans went three up, only to end the game 5-3 losers having been undone by the brilliance of the lithe Eusebio. But in an entertaining semi-final, at Wembley, Nobby Stiles, the dogged little Manchester United half-back, shackled Eusebio, and England, with Bobby Charlton scoring twice as deep-lying centre-forward, won 2-1. To be frank, it was their first really impressive display of the competition.

Did Ramsey's successful tactics do lasting harm to English football, as so many teams went on to imitate them? It is arguable; but surely not as much harm as the long-ball tactics which became depressingly prevalent in the 1980s.

You could forgive Graham Taylor's Watford for practising them, given their lack of playing resources. But what is harder to forgive was the obsessive, autocratic long-ball policy preached at the Football Association's coaching department, under the draconian aegis of an ex-schoolmaster, Charles Hughes.

Taylor and Hughes were both essentially the pupils of Wing Commander Charles Reep who, in the 1950s, delineated in a multitude of diagrams, through so-called match analysis, the ideal way for teams to play.

Stanley Cullis, the former England and Wolves centre-half, was captivated by these ideas and applied them to the successful Wolverhampton teams he managed in the 1950s and early 60s. But in a later, larger context, their instrumentation catered to a trend that had long been evident in English football: away from the constructive and the creative to the physical and basic. It became clear to many of us that the shortest route to goal was by no means always the ideal, but it took years for the heresy to be largely defeated.

World beaters...Alf Ramsey and Bobby Moore parade the trophy

Men of the Century

July 1978
World record transfer: Paolo Rossi moves from Juventus to Vicenza for £1.75million.

1979
Seventeen players of Soviet Union club Pakhtakor Tashkent are killed in a plane crash on their way to a League match.

Helenio Herrera

56 Jacques Ferran
Long-serving editor of *France Football* magazine, who was one of the first to add gravitas to coverage of European football.

57 Helenio Herrera
Highly innovative and single-minded coach, born in Argentina, brought up in Morocco, and a player in France. After using attacking tactics at Barcelona, he developed a ruthless defensive system at Inter – *catenaccio* – which secured two European and two World Club Cups for the Italians.

58 Will Struth
Stonemason who became secretary-manager of Rangers in 1920 and kept the job for 33 years, winning 18 League titles.

59 Ernst Happel
Austrian player who won more fame as a coach, with Feyenoord – the first Dutch club to win a European trophy – Holland and his native country.

60 Stanley Rous
Schoolteacher who became a referee (he took charge of the 1934 FA Cup Final), secretary of the FA, and then president of FIFA for 13 years from 1961.

Stanley Rous

The 1966 West Germany team had revealed the multiple talents of the elegant 21-year-old right-half, Franz Beckenbauer, coolly creative and incisive, a scorer and maker of goals. Most important, however, was his precocious tactical innovation, which would turn excitingly into what came to be known as Total Football.

Playing for Bayern Munich, a team of comparatively recent origin but one destined to make enormous impact, Beckenbauer meditated on the fact that the tall Inter left-back, Giacinto Facchetti – another 1966 World Cup player, though a disappointed one – was constantly moving into attack, and even scoring goals.

If a full-back could do that, reflected Beckenbauer, then why not a central defender? So was born the idea of the attacking libero, a role conceived and perfected by Beckenbauer himself.

Defence into attack with Beckenbauer

He took a long time to convince Helmut Schoen, the tall, gentle figure who had succeeded the authoritarian Sepp Herberger as Germany's national team manager. Indeed, not until the 1974 World Cup, when he captained West Germany to success, would Beckenbauer be permitted to play as he wanted at the highest level. However, in 1972, at the European Nations Cup in Belgium, he had, as libero, inspired the Germans to an easy victory over the Soviet Union in the Final.

In the 1966 World Cup Final, Beckenbauer was cautiously deputed by Schoen to mark Bobby Charlton, and the two virtually cancelled each other out. In the 1970 quarter-final in Leon, played in appalling heat, at high altitude, and begun, crazily, at noon, Ramsey rashly took Charlton off shortly before Beckenbauer was to reduce the deficit to 2-1, and the Germans went on to win 3-2.

It was the first World Cup in which substitutes were permitted, though from time to time, over the years, the rules had been relaxed in international games. Notionally, the rationale would be that it was legitimate and fair to replace an injured player, but in no time at all coaches and managers made substitutions for essentially tactical reasons.

Thus in that Leon game, while the adventurous English full-backs wilted in the heat but remained on the pitch, Schoen used his substitutes shrewdly. Jurgen Grabowski, going on as a right-wing replacement for Reinhard Libuda, proved decisive.

Ironically, Schoen and Germany would pay the penalty for such tactical indulgence when, in the semi-final against Italy in Mexico City, the elegant Beckenbauer was harshly fouled as he swept through the defence. Both substitutes had been used, so he was condemned to play the whole of extra time with an arm in a sling. Italy won 4-3 in a game described dismissively by one Italian journalist as "basketball".

At one stage, Ramsey, who never really got to grips with the use of substitutes, was wont to say that his 1970 team was superior to the 1966 World Cup winners. In private, though, he would smile and tell you he had only said that to encourage the

Master of arts...Brazil's Tostao recovered from a serious eye injury to play a leading role in the 1970 World Cup

Key dates

May 30, 1979
Nottingham Forest beat Malmo 1-0 in Munich to win the European Cup.

December 12, 1979
Paraguay win the Copa America after a 0-0 draw with Chile in a play-off in Buenos Aires. Each country had won one game in the two-leg Final, hence the play-off, but Paraguay took the trophy since they had a 3-1 aggregate from the first two matches.

November 18, 1979/March 3, 1980
Olimpia of Paraguay beat Malmo 3-1 on aggregate to win the World Club Championship. Malmo took the place of European champions Nottingham Forest, who had withdrawn.

March 22, 1980
Nigeria beat Algeria 3-0 in Lagos to win the African Nations Cup.

May 28, 1980
Nottingham Forest beat Hamburg 1-0 to retain the European Cup.

June 22, 1980
West Germany beat Belgium 2-1 in Rome in the Final of the European Championship, which for the first time had been expanded to eight teams.

Flamengo, 1981

February 11, 1981
Nacional beat Nottingham Forest 1-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup, now a single-tie event.

May 27, 1981
Liverpool win European Cup, becoming first British side to hold it three times.

December 13, 1981
Flamengo beat Liverpool 3-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

March 19, 1982
Ghana beat Libya 7-6 on penalties to win the African Nations Cup.

May 26, 1982
Aston Villa become sixth consecutive English winners of European Cup.

June 13-July 11, 1982
12th World Cup finals, held in Spain.

1970 side. Even so, the England manager made a very good job of the 1970 tournament.

Brazil at their most brilliant

It was Brazil, however, who were the dominant team. They had had a traumatic time four years earlier, when Vicente Feola, recalled as coach, had put out a team stacked full of fading veterans.

In addition, Pele, his fitness already in doubt, was kicked out of contention by the Bulgarians and Portuguese, unprotected by inept referees.

The 1970 Brazilians were an altogether fitter, more formidable team, so dazzling in attack that their potential weaknesses in defence, and the inadequacy of their goalkeeper, Felix, became irrelevant. Mario Zagallo, a star of the 1958 and 1962 victories, was made manager after the deposing of the volatile Joao Saldanha, journalist and political dissident, who did not survive a clash of wills with Pele.

Zagallo neatly solved the problem of whether to play Gerson or Rivelino as chief creator in midfield by using Rivelino with great success as a deep left-winger.

Pele, who had initially said, after seeing film of his maltreatment by Portugal at Everton, that he would never play in another World Cup, changed his mind and was magisterial. Tostao, who had played and scored a goal in 1966, recovered from a serious eye injury when struck by a football, and excelled as a tactically adroit centre-forward.

There was a fine game in Guadalajara, when England were beaten 1-0 by a goal tarnished by an unperceived foul by Tostao on Moore. The England left-half and captain coolly shrugged off his detention in Bogota, Colombia, where he had been falsely accused of stealing a bracelet in the hotel being used by the England team during a pre-tournament visit.

The team might well have made further progress in Mexico had not Gordon Banks, who made a fabulous save from Pele's bouncing header in the Guadalajara game, been taken ill before the match against West Germany. He was replaced by Chelsea's Peter Bonetti, who had an unhappy game, though Uwe Seeler's back-header which beat him for the second German goal was something of a freak.

Brazil, overcoming Peru and a resilient Uruguay in the knockout stages, then had little trouble with Italy in the Mexico City Final, even though a careless backheel by their young wing-half, Clodoaldo, presented Roberto Boninsegna with an unexpected equaliser. Pele, however, was irresistible, majestically heading the opening goal and setting up two more in the second half in Brazil's 4-1 win.

George Best: gifts in abundance

It was a pity that Northern Ireland, the home country of George Best, never reached the World Cup finals in his day. Best, perhaps the finest of all British post-war players, was gifted with almost every quality an attacker could want – superlative control, pace, courage, originality, a fine shot, and a prowess in the air which belied his stature. His club side, Manchester United, under a resuscitated Matt Busby, became the first English team to win the European Cup when, at Wembley in 1968, they found new life in extra time to beat Benfica, and Eusebio. And it was the Irishman who scored the vital goal, with typical panache, at the start of the additional period.

"If I'd been born ugly," Best once said, "you'd never have heard of Pele." He was probably the first British footballer to become a romantic hero, but as time went on his life became increasingly chaotic and undisciplined, alcohol, too, playing its destructive part.

Best retired, put on weight, made a comeback, joined Fulham, once went to jail, then re-emerged to become a television pundit. But in his prime, first as winger, later as all-purpose attacker, he was phenomenal.

King of Europe...Best celebrates United's 1968 triumph over Benfica

Men of the Century

July 11, 1982
Italy defeat West Germany 3-1 in Madrid to complete a third World Cup triumph.

July 1982
World record transfer: Diego Maradona, Boca Juniors to Barcelona, £3m.

July 1982
In Moscow, 340 fans are crushed to death during Spartak v Haarlem UEFA Cup tie in Lenin stadium.

Mario Zagallo

61 Jock Stein
A moderate player who became a great manager, taking Celtic to nine successive League titles and – in 1967 – all three domestic titles and the European Cup.

62 Rinus Michels
Dutch coach who led a revolution in the late 1960s at Ajax, where he developed the 'Total football' philosophy. Also managed Holland in the 1974 World Cup, returning to lead the national side to triumph at the 1988 European Championship.

63 Mario Zagallo
First man to play for and then manage World Cup-winning sides, then the first to be involved in four World Cup triumphs when he was assistant coach at World Cup 94.

64 Bill Shankly
Legendary Scottish manager who took Liverpool from the English Second Division to the brink of European success before retiring in 1974. Created the fabled 'boot room' which produced future managers Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan and Roy Evans.

65 Helmut Schoen
Manager of West Germany, whose World Cup record was 2nd, 1st, 3rd, 2nd. Plus 1st and 2nd in the Euro Championship.

Helmut Schoen

The early 1960s had seen the explosion of Total Football, as practised in West Germany and Holland, and the rise of Dutch football was extraordinary. Never before had the Dutch been a power, though inside-forward Faas Wilkes had been picked for the Rest of Europe against Britain in 1947 and gone on to play with distinction for Inter.

The engine of the Dutch surge was the remarkable Ajax club, with their elaborate coaching scheme which took on very young boys, looked after their education and welfare besides their football, and gradually coached those who lasted the pace all the way up to the first team.

Rinus Michels, formerly a prolific Ajax centre-forward, was the main motivator as club manager; the inspiration of the team was Johan Cruyff. He and Franz Beckenbauer, indeed, were the twin icons of Total Football and they would meet head-on at both club and World Cup level.

Dutch stride towards Total domination

The implicit theory behind Total Football was that anybody could, and should, do anything. Utopian, perhaps, but surely an ideal worth pursuing. Defenders should attack, attackers should be able to defend. Willy Meisl, journalist brother of Hugo, had, in fact, predicted something of the sort in 1955 when his book *Soccer Revolution* looked forward to something he called The Whirl.

Cruyff, normally a centre-forward, was adept at moving to the wing, particularly the left, and outpacing his opponents. He insisted that he was not very fast, but he knew exactly how to time his bursts. Sometimes he would drop back into midfield, linking devastatingly with the powerful midfielder Johan Neeskens, a Total Footballer indeed, who was able to play for Holland at both centre-half and centre-forward as well.

The goal they so gloriously worked out together under the rain in Dortmund, when Holland reached the 1974 World Cup Final at the expense of Brazil, stays vividly in the mind; a dazzling exchange at speed, concluding with a cross from the right by Cruyff – an immediate return – which was scooped in at once by Neeskens.

Among the other key Ajax and Holland figures at the time were Wim Suurbier and Ruud Krol, nominally full-backs but attacking footballers of pace and power; Barry Hulshoff, a dominant centre-back whose absence from the 1974 World Cup could well, in the end, have cost them the trophy; and Arie Haan, who, like Neeskens, showed skill and strength in midfield.

The Amsterdam club won three European Cups in a row: in 1971 the Greeks of Panathinaikos, managed by Ferenc Puskas, were comfortably beaten at Wembley, as were Inter in Rotterdam the following year; the third victory came against Juventus in 1973, in Belgrade.

Party time...Bayern Munich celebrate their 1974 European Cup Final victory over Atletico Madrid

Question marks over Juventus

Juventus had a dubious passage to the Final. They had taken on Italo Allodi as general manager, and where Allodi went, Dezso Solti followed. His attempt to bribe Francisco Marques Lobo, the Portuguese referee, to 'bend' the semi-final, second leg at Derby County was repulsed. Lobo was

Key dates

November 1982
Eighteen fans die and a further 45 are injured when a wall collapses during a match between Deportes Tolima and Deportivo Cali in Ibague, Colombia.

December 12, 1982
Penarol beat Aston Villa 2-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

May 25, 1983
Hamburg beat Juventus 1-0 in Athens to win the European Cup.

October 27/ November 4, 1983
Uruguay beat Brazil 3-1 over two legs to win the Copa America.

December 11, 1983
Gremio beat Hamburg 2-1 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

March 18, 1984
Cameroon beat Nigeria 3-1 in Abidjan to win the African Nations Cup.

May 30, 1984
Liverpool win the European Cup after defeating Roma in a penalty shoot-out.

Penarol v Villa, 1982

June 27, 1984
France win their first honour – the European Championship – after beating Spain 2-0 in the Final in Paris.

July 1984
World record transfer: Diego Maradona moves from Barcelona to Napoli for £5million.

December 9, 1984
Independiente beat Liverpool 1-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

May 11, 1985
Bradford City fire disaster: 56 people are killed when a 77-year-old wooden stand is engulfed by flames.

May 29, 1985
Heysel disaster: 39 die as a result of rioting at the Liverpool v Juventus European Cup Final in Brussels. As a result, UEFA bans English clubs indefinitely from European

In control...Cruyff skips round the Panathinaikos defence at Wembley

honest enough to report him, and refereed impeccably, but Juve, on their merits, won the first leg 3-1; Schulenberg, the German referee, controversially booked two key Derby players.

"No cheating bastards will I talk to!" cried Brian Clough, Derby's innovative and abrasive manager, opening the dressing-room door. "Tell them what I said, Brian!" Later, he would perform the astonishing feat of bringing Nottingham Forest out of the Second Division to an immediate League championship and two European Cups.

Juventus, Allodi and Co got away with it when a farcical UEFA disciplinary sub-committee failed even to confront Lobo with Solti in a Zurich hotel. After which, without the knowledge of UEFA's Italian president, the subtle Artemio Franchi, the secretary, Hans Bangerter, raced off a letter of thanks and exoneration to Juve. It might just have had something to do with the fact that the club's patron was Gianni Agnelli, the boss of Fiat and one of the most powerful men in Europe.

Bayern and Germany: a winning double act

After Ajax, Bayern Munich, inspired by Beckenbauer and winners of the European Cup three years running from 1974 – against Atletico Madrid, Leeds and Saint-Etienne. The supporting cast was formidable. Paul Breitner, the supposed Maoist, was an attacking full-back of dynamic initiative who scored in two World Cup Finals. The evening after West Germany's 1974 win, he strode out of the celebrations saying he wanted nothing to do with them.

Gerd Muller, the thick-thighed centre-forward, a prolific opportunist, would score the winner against Holland in the 1974 World Cup Final in Munich, and have what looked a good goal ruled out for a contentious offside decision by the English referee, Jack Taylor. Bayern might have missed out on Muller's services altogether had not the club president overruled the decision by Yugoslav manager, Udo Lattek, to turn him down.

There was also Uli Hoeness, a lively right-winger, who like Beckenbauer would become a major executive at Bayern Munich.

In the national set-up, midfield schemer Gunter Netzer, he of the huge boots, the devastating runs and flowing blond locks, had his finest hour in the 1972 European Nations Cup finals.

At Wembley, in the first leg of the quarter-final, Netzer tore to pieces an England team in which Alf Ramsey, inexplicably, had picked no midfield marker. For the return, in Berlin, Ramsey gave up the ghost, picking a dour team full of hard men, which prompted Netzer to say, after a dreary 0-0 draw: "The whole England team has autographed my leg." But Ramsey hung on until 1974.

Holland should have won that 1974 World Cup Final. They went a goal up in 90 seconds when Cruyff slalomed through their defence, was felled by Hoeness, and Neeskens drove in the penalty. West Germany equalised from a penalty of their own, scored by Breitner – but just before half-time Johnny Rep, scorer of Ajax's 1973 European Cup winner in Belgrade, missed an easy chance set up for him by Cruyff.

The insertion of the forceful Rainer Bonhof as an attacking right-sided midfielder had made all the difference to a German team lucky to scrape past the gifted Poles on a soaked Frankfurt pitch in the final second-round group game. And it was Bonhof who stormed down the flank to set up Muller's winner.

Had the Dutch been too obsessed with bitter memories of the war, more concerned with ridiculing the Germans than beating them?

Fire power...Muller hits West Germany's 1974 World Cup Final winner

Men of the Century

competition. Juventus win the match 1-0.

December 8, 1985
Juventus beat Argentinos Juniors on penalties after a 2-2 draw in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

March 1986
Egypt beat Cameroon on penalties to win the African Nations Cup.

Pele

66 Pele
Played his first senior match at 15, his last when almost 37, with more than 1,000 goals in between. Great when at his best, good even when he was off form, and always the man for the biggest of occasions – as in Sweden 1958 and Mexico 1970.

67 Johan Cruyff
Tall, almost too slim, lightning off the mark, two-footed...probably Europe's finest player, scoring and scheming with equal facility. His intelligence and skill with languages helped him to succeed as player and coach, wherever he went.

68 & 69 Horst & Adi Dassler
Brothers who created the Adidas sports-goods empire. Horst (died 1980) also founded another empire, ISL.

70 Gerd Muller
Prolific German striker, known as *Der Bomber*, who scored 68 goals in 62 games for West Germany, including the World Cup finals record of 14 – 10 in 1970 (as a beaten semi-finalist) and four in 1974 (winner).

Gerd Muller

Johan Cruyff didn't play, alas, in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, otherwise Holland would surely have won an ultimately tarnished tournament.

FIFA's misguided timetable gave Argentina the luxury of knowing the precise number of goals they needed to beat Peru by in the final game of the second round group stage. Brazil had been obliged to play earlier the same day, beating Poland 3-1 and thus leaving Argentina looking to score four and win by a three-goal margin to qualify for the Final. This they achieved comfortably, winning 6-0.

Afterwards the Brazil coach, Claudio Coutinho, remarked bitterly that when it came to the next World Cup, the Peruvians would not be able to hear their national anthem with pride.

Cruyff's absence casts a shadow

Why did Cruyff refuse to play? Various explanations have been offered, one that his wife was infuriated by reports that, in the Dutch team's training camp at Hiltrup, in 1974, he and other players had splashed about in the swimming pool with naked German girls. Whatever the reason, neither he nor Wim Van Hanegem agreed to go to Argentina.

Nevertheless the Dutch, under the somewhat dour management of the former Austrian star Ernst Happel – a last moment arrival from club football, as Rinus Michels had been in 1974 – were in their second consecutive Final; only once more to fall at the last fence.

A shot against the post by the left-winger, Rob Rensenbrink, so nearly gave Holland victory, but in extra time a seemingly weary, flagging Argentine team rose almost miraculously from the ashes, Mario Kempes ran wild in attack, and his team won the game, 3-1. We perhaps will never know quite how this amazing physical recovery took place.

Back in front...Mario Kempes (right) celebrates his and Argentina's second goal in the 1978 World Cup Final

English sides on top

While England missed out on both the 1974 and 1978 World Cup finals, its club sides came to dominate the European Cup in the latter part of the decade.

Under the volatile little Scot Bill Shankly, once a Preston and Scotland right-half, Liverpool had risen from the Second Division to become a power, not only in England but across the Continent. Shankly, famous for his eccentric aphorisms, won everything but the European Cup, and that would be put right in spades by his very different, far less flamboyant, successor, the north-easterner, Bob Paisley.

The watershed came in 1973 when, in the European Cup, Liverpool lost to Red Star in Belgrade and at Anfield. A meeting was held in the famous Boot Room,

Key dates

May 7, 1986
Steaua Bucharest beat Barcelona on penalties after a 0-0 draw in Seville to win the European Cup, the first for an Eastern European club.

May 31-June 29, 1986
13th World Cup finals, held in Mexico.

June 29, 1986
Argentina beat West Germany 3-2 to win the World Cup for a second time.

July 18, 1986
Sir Stanley Rous dies, aged 91.

December 14, 1986
River Plate of Argentina beat Steaua Bucharest 1-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

May 27, 1987
FC Porto beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in Vienna to win the European Cup.

July 1987
World record transfer: Ruud Gullit, PSV Eindhoven to Milan, £6million.

July 12, 1987
Uruguay beat Chile 1-0 in Buenos Aires to win the Copa America.

Lifted...Porto, 1987

December 1987
Forty-three people, including the 18-strong squad plus youth players and officials of Alianza Lima, die in plane crash.

December 13, 1987
FC Porto beat Penarol 2-1 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

March 10, 1988
A stand collapses at an international between Libya and Malta in Tripoli, causing 30 deaths and many injuries. A man brandishing a gun had run amok among the 65,000 crowd causing a stampede for the exits, which toppled a retaining wall.

March 12, 1988
Between 70 and 100 fans die in Kathmandu when a violent stampede among a 25,000 crowd at a game between Janakpur of

Red alert...Kevin Keegan takes on Gladbach's Berti Vogts in Rome

where the elders of the coaching staff would gather, and it was decided that tactics must change. The long ball must give way to a more measured approach, with greater emphasis on a measured build-up and possession of the ball.

Rewards, especially in Europe, were spectacular. Liverpool won the European Cup two years running, the first time in Rome in 1977, when Borussia Monchengladbach were beaten 3-1. The fulcrum of that Liverpool team was little Kevin Keegan, who had arrived as an obscure outside-right from Scunthorpe but transcended his lack of natural gifts to make himself into one of the most complete attackers of his day. He was twice European Footballer of the Year, in 1978 and 1979, and went on to play for Hamburg, Southampton and Newcastle, whom he later successfully managed. He eventually became England's manager in 1999 after a spell at Fulham.

Dalglish takes over from Keegan

The outstanding Scottish inside-right from Celtic, Kenny Dalglish, ably replaced Keegan after his departure for Germany and scored the only goal of a dull Final against Club Brugge at Wembley in 1978. But the following season, to general surprise, new English champions Nottingham Forest promptly knocked them out of the European Cup in the first round. Brian Clough's side went on to win an even duller Final, in Munich, against Malmo. Trevor Francis, the first £1million English player, initially a prodigy at Birmingham though of Devonian stock, headed the solitary goal.

Forest did it again in 1980, hanging on by their finger-nails to defeat Keegan's Hamburg in Madrid, thanks in large measure to the supreme goalkeeping of Peter Shilton, who had succeeded Gordon Banks both with Leicester City and with England. He would go on to win a record number of caps for his country.

Then it was Liverpool's turn again to take the Cup, this time beating Real Madrid in the Final in Paris; the next year, it was Aston Villa who continued the run for English clubs, overcoming Bayern Munich 1-0 in Rotterdam.

Top of the tree...Brian Clough (left) twice led Forest to the European Cup

Men of the Century

Nepal and Mukti Jodha of Bangladesh.

March 27, 1988
Cameroon beat Nigeria 1-0 in Casablanca to win the African Nations Cup.

May 25, 1988
PSV Eindhoven beat Benfica on penalties after a 0-0 draw in Stuttgart to win the European Cup for the first time.

Franz Beckenbauer

71 Franz Beckenbauer
First man to captain and then manage a World Cup-winning team, with West Germany in 1974 and then 1990. *Der Kaiser* has since moved into an executive role at Bayern Munich and the German 2006 World Cup bid.

72 Cesar Luis Menotti
Chain-smoking coach with an extremely forthright attitude who knew lows as well as highs, but won the World Cup with Argentina in 1978.

73 Raimundo Saporta
Right-hand man to Santiago Bernabeu who became a respected sports administrator organising the World Cup in Spain in 1982.

74 Lamar Hunt
An enthusiastic financial backer of the game in the USA, from the early days of the NASL, through to MLS and the current construction of a soccer stadium in Columbus. •

75 Joao Havelange
FIFA president from 1974, when he ousted Stanley Rous, to 1998, when he finally stepped down, aged 81. Instrumental in the expansion of the World Cup to 24 and then 32 teams.

Cesar Luis Menotti

Bound for glory...Paolo Rossi's diving header puts Italy on the way to victory in the 1982 World Cup Final

The 1982 World Cup was held in Spain, with Italy and Paolo Rossi rising from the ashes of their dull displays in Galicia to defeat a brilliant if erratic Brazil, and then beat the unpopular West Germany in the Final. In Italy itself there was much scepticism, and worse, about the drawn final group game with Cameroon, from which the *azzurri* needed just a point to qualify for the next stage.

Why did the Cameroon manager's wife fly home with a bag full of various foreign currencies? Was there involvement of a notorious southern Italian betting ring? It is hard to think that Enzo Bearzot, Italy's upright and dedicated manager, could have anything to do with it. Plagued by the criticisms of Italo Allodi, his embattled foe, who was absurdly put in charge of the national coaching centre at Coverciano, Bearzot lamented, how could he work with a Brutus at his back? But he would have the last word.

Rossi rehabilitated

Rossi, condemned to a three-year suspension for his role in the appallingly widespread Toto Nero betting scandal in 1980, was amnestied in time to lead Italy's attack in Spain. Inevitably rusty at first, he would explode in the latter stages to score six goals in the final three games, including a hat-trick in the first of them, against Brazil in Barcelona.

This match was not a quarter-final as such. The way the tournament was organised was something of a throwback to 1950, with two group stages, though at least in 1982 there would be genuine semi-finals and a Final.

At their best, Brazil probably were the finest team in the competition and they had a dazzling midfield in Falcao, Socrates and Toninho Cerezo. But the team's carelessness and Rossi's sublime opportunism put Italy through.

He scored another couple against Poland in the Barcelona semi-final and the first in Italy's 3-1 victory over West Germany in the final.

The Germans' semi-final, against France in Seville, was tarnished by a horrific foul committed by the German keeper, Toni Schumacher, who chopped Patrick Battiston, the French defender, across the throat as he advanced on goal. So slow were the impeded medical services getting on to the field that Battiston might have died. Schumacher laughed it off, but later made a clumsy attempt at remorse.

West Germany won the game after extra time and penalties, but no more unpopular team could ever have reached a World Cup Final. So there was general satisfaction when the Italians, though deprived of their chief midfield motivator, Giancarlo Antognoni, comfortably won the game in Madrid.

All power to Havelange

The 1986 World Cup was again played in Mexico, despite the problems of heat and altitude that had been so manifest in 1970, and which involved visiting teams in huge expense as they acclimatised.

The die was clearly cast when, immediately after the 1982 Final, Joao Havelange, president of FIFA, flew out of Spain to Mexico in a private jet owned by Emilio Azcarraga, multi-millionaire head of Televisa Mejicana.

Key dates

June 25, 1988
Holland win the European Championship after beating the Soviet Union 2-0 in the Final in Munich.

December 11, 1988
Nacional of Uruguay beat PSV Eindhoven 2-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

April 15, 1989
Hillsborough disaster: 96 people die after being crushed at the Liverpool v Nottingham Forest FA Cup semi-final.

May 24, 1989
Milan beat Steaua Bucharest 4-0 in Barcelona to win the European Cup.

July 16, 1989
Brazil beat Uruguay 1-0 to win the final group stage of the Copa America.

August 12, 1989
Twelve fans are trampled to death in Lagos, Nigeria, and a player dies on the field during a World Cup qualifier between Nigeria and Angola.

December 17, 1989
European champions Milan beat Atletico Nacional Medellin 1-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

1990
International Board amends offside law (player level no longer offside); FIFA make professional foul a sending-off offence.

1990
Guiseppe Lorenzo of Bologna creates world record by being sent off after 10 seconds for striking a Parma opponent.

March 16, 1990
Algeria beat Nigeria 1-0 in Algiers to win the African Nations Cup.

Algeria top in 1990

May 23, 1990
Milan beat Benfica 1-0 in Vienna to retain the European Cup.

Dazzling...Socrates for Brazil in 1982

Colombia had, in fact, been designated 1986 World Cup hosts, with the proviso that the tournament on that occasion would be sensibly limited to 16 countries, as opposed to the 24 who had contested the 1982 event. But a scarcely objective inspection of Colombia's facilities would conveniently rule them out and put Mexico in.

Havelange had beaten Stanley Rous to the presidency in Frankfurt just before the start of the 1974 World Cup, in deeply suspicious circumstances. The African votes were crucial. In the *Sunday Times*, Keith Botsford wrote about "small brown envelopes going into large black hands".

In 1999, a devastating exposé by the investigative journalist David Yallop, *How They Stole The Game*, chronicled – unchallenged – the way Havelange, as president of the Brazilian confederation, used funds to finance his FIFA campaign and bring Third World votes to Frankfurt.

It is truly a shocking commentary on FIFA and its time-serving, lickspittle executives that the bullying, authoritarian Havelange should time after time be voted back into power, until at last the game was rid of him in 1998. But then, as English Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole used to say: "Every man has his price."

Football suffers at the president's hands

The harm Havelange would do to football was incalculable, not least the bloating of the World Cup to an unmanageable 24 teams.

Above all, the Brazilian, a former water polo player, never evinced any true feeling for football. One was moved to remark, given his compulsive need to innovate for innovation's sake, that he would not die happy until he had initiated a World Cup for embryos.

But he was indeed the Teflon president. Nothing, no accusation, however well founded, seemed to touch him.

Maradona in his pomp

The dominant figure at the 1986 tournament was Argentina's Diego Maradona, author of two astonishing solo goals against England and Belgium, and the notorious 'Hand of God' goal, also against England, which he punched home after Steve Hodge had

Rule of iron...Joao Havelange

Men of the Century

June 8-July 8, 1990
14th World Cup finals, held in Italy.

July 8, 1990
West Germany beat Argentina 1-0 in the World Cup Final. Franz Beckenbauer becomes the first man to captain and then manage a World Cup-winning team.

Michel Platini

76 Giovanni Trapattoni
Most successful club coach of all time, who guided Juventus to the World Club Cup, European Cup, Cup-winners Cup, UEFA Cup, European Supercup and seven Italian League titles.

77 Michel Platini
Three-times European Footballer of the Year and an outstanding player for Juventus and France . Became a figurehead for the organising committee of the 1998 World Cup in France.

78 Tele Santana
Manager of Brazil at the 1982 and 1986 World Cups who also guided Sao Paulo to successive World Club Cups in 1982 and 1983.

79 Cha Bum-kun
The first and so far only Asian player to win a European trophy, the UEFA Cup, with Eintracht in 1980 and with Bayer Leverkusen in 1988. Later coached South Korean national side.

80 Stefano Tanzi
President of Italian club Parma, who led the way in bringing industrial sponsorship into football in the 1980s through his dairy firm Parmalat.

Cha Bum-kun

Help from above...Diego Maradona's notorious 'Hand of God' goal against England in the 1986 World Cup

carelessly sliced an intended clearance over his own head. Referee and linesman performed like the Wise Monkeys.

Four minutes later Maradona performed his inspired slalom to score the goal that put Argentina into the semi-finals.

An excellent Brazilian team failed again, knocked out by the talented French in Guadalajara in the quarter-finals, a game that might have gone so differently had the effervescent Zico, appearing in his third World Cup, not missed a penalty after Branco had been brought down. The game was settled by a penalty shoot-out, an abysmal method of deciding matches, but one that would figure with increasing prominence in competitions to come.

The gigantism of the Havelange World Cup, with its wearying burdens on teams making progress, rendered replays unfeasible. Many of us feared the ultimate fiasco, a World Cup Final, greatest of all prestige games, decided by penalties after extra time. It duly happened.

France, in the coruscating image of Michel Platini, a superb all-round inside-forward who also was playing in his third World Cup, were a delight, as they had been in 1982. But again they would fall to a dour West Germany.

Superior Argentina win the day

The Final at the Azteca saw Argentina, playing a newly-conceived 3-5-2 formation, defeat the Germans. It was not without difficulty, however. The South Americans went 2-0 up, the first goal headed with surprising ease by sweeper Jose Luis Brown – a man without a club. But the Germans showed their traditional resilience by scoring twice from corners, only for Argentina, the superior team, to make it 3-2 with a goal by Jorge Burruchaga.

Maradona was somewhat muted in the Final but was unquestionably, for all his duplicity, the player of the tournament.

Just as the four-in-line defence had caught on after Brazil's 1958 World Cup victory, so the 3-5-2 formation with wing-backs gradually made progress, though in England it was seldom quite played as Argentina played it, with a designated sweeper.

Notably, Argentina did not play with an authentic centre-forward in the latter stages in 1986, having been dissatisfied with those used in the earlier games.

The Heysel disaster

In 1984 Liverpool won their fourth European Cup, though only by the dubious expedient of penalties, in Rome's Olympic stadium, where Roma themselves were their opponents. After the game, to the horror of the Roman newspapers, gangs of young ruffians attacked Liverpool supporters with iron bars.

These outrages would bear bitter fruit the following year when Liverpool, reaching the Final yet again, were confronted by another Italian club, Juventus, at Heysel stadium in Brussels.

The game never should have been played there, and showed both UEFA and the notoriously inept Belgian authorities at their worst.

Key dates

July 1990
World record transfer: Roberto Baggio, Fiorentina to Juventus, £8million.

August 1990
English clubs (Manchester United and Aston Villa) restored to European competition.

December 9, 1990
Milan beat Olimpia 3-0 in Tokyo to retain the World Club Cup.

January 13, 1991
Forty people are killed, trampled to death as they try to escape fighting fans who clashed following a disallowed goal in a League match between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates in South Africa.

March 17, 1991
Diego Maradona fails a dope test after Napoli's League match against Bari, and is subsequently banned for 15 months

May 29, 1991
Red Star Belgrade beat Marseille on penalties after a 0-0 draw in Bari to win the European Cup

Red Star shine

July 4, 1991
Argentina beat Colombia 2-1 in Santiago to win the final round of the Copa America.

December 8, 1991
Red Star Belgrade beat Colo Colo 3-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

January 26, 1992
Ivory Coast beat Ghana 11-10 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the Final of the African Nations Cup.

May 5, 1992
15 killed and 1,300 injured when a temporary stand collapses at Bastia, Corsica, during the Bastia v Marseille French Cup semi-final.

May 20, 1992
Barcelona beat Sampdoria in extra time at Wembley to win the European Cup for the first time.

The crumbling old stadium was quite unsuitable for putting on so important a game, and UEFA's inspection was disgracefully perfunctory. To exacerbate matters, tickets at the end designated for Liverpool supporters were put on sale in Belgium, with large numbers inevitably finding their way into the hands of Italian immigrants and being sent back to Italy.

Add the violent, hard-drinking element prominent among Liverpool supporters for many years past, and the recipe for disaster was complete. It duly occurred.

Your average Liverpool fan was hardly likely to distinguish between one Italian and another, and memories of what happened to many of them after the Final in Rome may have played a part in the carnage.

Braver, better police could have averted disaster. There was a good 15-minute gap between the charges of the Liverpool supporters at the passive, terrified Italian fans. British police would have been up on those terraces to sort matters out in no time at all. The Belgian police did nothing.

Captain marvel...Michel Platini celebrates scoring for France against Brazil in their Mexico 86 quarter-final

Day of tragedy...police try to hold back fans at the Heysel stadium

Indeed, after the second charge, the collapse of a wall, and the resulting carnage – 39 fans died and more than 350 were injured – when a detachment of police did arrive, the leader lined them up in the middle of the pitch and inspected them!

English clubs in exile

It transpired that large numbers of Liverpool fans without tickets had been able to find their way on to those terraces, either by passing through the turnstiles unimpeded or squeezing through an inadequate fence. The draconian consequence was that English clubs were banned for five years from all European competition.

This was particularly ironic and harsh in the case of Liverpool's city rivals, Everton, who only a fortnight earlier had won the Cup-winners Cup in Rotterdam, with no trouble at all from their happy supporters.

The ban came at an especially delicate and destructive time for English football, pandering as it did to the long-ball lobby in the years the clubs were cut off from the Continent.

Men/Woman of the Century

June 1992
World record transfers: Jean-Pierre Papin, Marseille to Milan, £10million.
Followed a few days later by: Gianluca Vialli, Sampdoria to Juventus, £12million.

June 26, 1992
Last-minute entrants Denmark beat Germany 2-0 in the Final to win the European Championship.

Silvio Berlusconi

81 Diego Maradona
Short, strong and wondrously talented, a poor little rich boy whose ability on the field always surpassed his self-control off it. Twice banned after failing drugs tests. Sold twice for world record fees, and a World Cup winner in 1986 and runner-up in 1990.

82 Silvio Berlusconi
Italian media magnate who took control of Milan in the mid-1980s and transformed them into a world power. One of the first people to realise the power of football and television.

83 Roger Milla
Cameroon international and the first man to be voted African Footballer of the Year twice – 14 years apart (1976 and 1990). Believed to be the oldest player to appear at the World Cup finals.

84 Jose Luis Nunez
President of Barcelona for more than 20 years, through to the present day. A survivor in the turbulent world of Catalan politics.

Michelle Akers

85 Michelle Akers
The most successful footballer of all time in the women's game.

From 1986 onwards, there was a string of disappointing European Cup Finals. The goalless draw in Seville in 1986 between Steaua Bucharest, who won on penalties, and an inexplicably feeble Barcelona, managed by Terry Venables, could have sent you to sleep. Better by far was Porto's 1987 victory over Bayern Munich in Vienna, with Portuguese Paulo Futre and Algeria's clever left-winger Rabah Madjer to the fore. But 1988 saw another dreary game, in Stuttgart, in which PSV beat Benfica on penalties after a goalless draw. Milan's 4-0 crushing of Steaua in Barcelona the following year raised doubts about the Romanians' commitment.

Dutch treat...Ruud Gullit scores for Milan against Steaua Bucharest in the 1989 European Cup Final

Magnificent Dutch fire Milan

Nevertheless, the Milan team built by Arrigo Sacchi, renouncing *catenaccio* for a four-in-line zonal defence that pressed far upfield, was a memorable one. The fulcrum and inspiration were the three magnificent Dutchmen, Frank Rijkaard in midfield, the tall, dreadlocked Ruud Gullit there or anywhere else he might be asked to play, and the remarkable Marco Van Basten, a centre-forward who had worshipped Cruyff and stood comparison with his idol.

The goal he volleyed from such an acute angle against the Soviet Union in the Final of the European Championship in Munich in 1988 was quite spectacular. Sadly, the cartilage in an ankle was kicked to pieces and eventually forced him out of the game at a wretchedly early age.

Sacchi was born at Fusignano, close to the Adriatic, the son of a shoe manufacturer. His local club told him he would never be of use as a player; he might as well coach the youngsters. This he did with such success that he eventually was appointed coach to Fiorentina juniors, then nearly took Parma to the top division, using the same defensive system he was later to use at Milan.

Sacchi admitted that at his first press conference after being appointed by Milan he could hardly believe he was sitting there. But after an uneasy start his methods began to work well.

He had the courage to stand up to the club's multifarious owner, Silvio Berlusconi, the TV tycoon, insisting on signing Rijkaard when Berlusconi wanted Argentinian centre-forward Claudio Borghi.

Sacchi fails to make the big leap

Milan, with their inspirational Dutchmen, went from one success to another, but when Sacchi took over the national team, making endless changes of personnel, it was another story.

What he did have in that role was luck, the quality Napoleon demanded of his marshals. "That's mad!" cried Roberto Baggio, in Giants Stadium, New Jersey, when Sacchi substituted him in the 1994 World Cup group game against Norway after goalkeeper, Gianluca Pagliuca, had been sent off. But though Italy had already lost in the same stadium to the Republic of Ireland, they made it all the way to the Final, thanks in no small measure to Baggio's goals.

There was furore, however, when Sacchi – who always claimed "You don't have to have been a horse to be a jockey" – had his contract renewed at £900,000 a year. In due course he went back to Milan, resumed his feud with

Key dates

July 1992
World record transfer: Gianluigi Lentini moves from Torino to Milan for £13million.

August 1992
A Premier League of 22 clubs is launched in England; the Football League is reduced to 70 clubs playing in three divisions.

December 13, 1992
Sao Paulo beat Barcelona 2-1 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

April 1993
Eighteen members of the Zambian national team are killed when their plane crashes after a refuelling stop en route to a World Cup qualifier against Senegal.

May 26, 1993
Marseille become the first French team to win the European Cup, beating Milan 1-0 in the Final in Munich, but cannot defend their trophy following a bribery scandal.

July 4, 1993
Argentina beat Mexico 2-1 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, to win the Final of the Copa America and retain the trophy.

Copa joy...Argentina triumph in 1993

December 12, 1993
Sao Paulo beat European champions Milan 3-2 in Tokyo to retain the World Club Cup.

April 19, 1994
Nigeria beat Zambia 2-1 in Tunis to win the African Nations Cup.

May 18, 1994
Milan beat Barcelona 4-0 in Athens to win the European Cup.

Baggio, failed to recapture his early success, was exonerated, went to Spain, and there failed to cut the mustard with Atletico Madrid.

Italia 90: negative and over-long

The 1990 World Cup produced the most gruesome of all Finals, a repugnant, ill-natured, violent reprise of the 1986 contest between West Germany and Argentina, which had none of the allure of that previous game.

Maradona, whose prodigies – scorning injuries – had taken Argentina thus far, was walking wounded. Winger Claudio Caniggia, who headed his team's goal in the semi-final against Italy in Naples, which Argentina won on penalties, was among those suspended. He had been shown a second yellow card for a trivial and unnecessary handball – a commentary on the system as much as the player.

So, in Rome, a most dubiously awarded late penalty, converted by Andreas Brehme, enabled the Germans to obtain their revenge for 1986. The ravages of an over-long tournament, its early stages often negative and cautious, probably did as much as anything to undermine the Final.

The Dutch were a great disappointment: Ruud Gullit was still recovering from injury and there seemed to be dissension in the camp. England reached the semi-final in Turin after an edgy victory over the surprising Cameroon team, galvanised by their astonishing veteran striker, Roger Milla. But West Germany won through to the Final on penalties.

This was Bobby Robson's second World Cup in charge of the England team, who had done well in both – perhaps despite him rather than because of him in Mexico, where he had insisted on picking his captain, Bryan Robson, with a shoulder which kept being dislocated.

Things came to a head in Monterrey when, during an abysmal performance in the group game against Morocco, the shoulder came out yet again and Ray Wilkins was sent off for tossing the ball at the referee.

With these two out of the way, England, after bitter complaints from their players, reorganised and, with Gary Lineker becoming chief World Cup scorer, advanced through their group, past an abrasive Paraguay, only to fall to Argentina and the Hand of God despite an excellent late burst inspired by John Barnes, a substitute, on the left wing.

Robson's tactics back in question

In Italy four years later, Robson, allegedly persuaded by his players, abjured the four-in-line formation to which he had been so attached in favour of a sweeper and markers. But against Cameroon he eventually put Paul Parker on the rampant Milla, and, with the help of the penalty spot, England survived.

"A flat back four saved us," said Robson next day. But under pressure from the FA he already had resigned, giving way to the ill-starred reign of Graham "Do I not like that" Taylor, a man palpably out of his depth.

Out of Africa...Roger Milla and Cameroon made their mark on Italia 90

Men of the Century

June 17-July 17, 1994
15th World Cup finals, held in the United States.

July 17, 1994
Brazil beat Italy on penalties after a goalless draw in the World Cup Final. It is a record fourth triumph in the tournament.

Lennart Johansson

86 Lennart Johansson
Swedish administrator who, as president of European governing body UEFA, brought English clubs back into continental club competition and ushered in the Champions League. Beaten by Sepp Blatter in the 1998 FIFA presidential election, despite starting as favourite.

87 Lothar Matthaus
German midfielder and holder of the record for the most World Cup finals appearances – 25. One of only two men to have played in five World Cups.

88 Marco Van Basten
The outstanding player of an outstanding Dutch era. Career sadly curtailed by injury when still only 30.

89 Thomas Ravelli
Swedish goalkeeper and the most-capped European player of all time, with 143 international appearances between 1981 and 1997.

90 George Weah
The first African to win the European Footballer of the Year award, in 1995. Has used his worldwide status and earnings to invest in football in his war-torn home country, Liberia.

George Weah

The 1990s brought cataclysmic changes in the game. Jean-Marc Bosman, an obscure Belgian footballer scurvily treated by his club side, Liege, went to the European Court of Human Rights and, after a long, brave, harrowing quest, won his case for freedom of contract. Genuine freedom, not the kind of half-baked compromise that existed in England whereby a player whose contract ended could leave, only to have a transfer fee fixed by a tribunal.

Freedom fighter...Bosman

Now at the end of a contract – at least, in England, for players over 25 – the pendulum had swung. At last the ball, you might say, was in the players' court after having so long been with the clubs.

The salaries of top players were to increase exponentially. Many new millionaires were made as money poured in from satellite television. In Spain, the talented Portuguese right-winger Luis Figo was paid £2million a year by Barcelona, with a £2m bonus to come when he retired. Steve McManaman, nurtured by his local club, Liverpool, left them in 1999 after a somewhat indifferent season to earn £55,000 a week at Real Madrid.

Hillsborough and its aftermath

The horrific disaster at the 1989 Liverpool v Nottingham Forest FA Cup semi-final cost the lives of 96 poor Liverpool fans, crushed to death at the Leppings Lane end of Sheffield Wednesday's ground, Hillsborough. This clearly had been an accident waiting to happen, given the exiguous nature of the deputed entrance, but surely might have been avoided had the officer who had overseen the police operation at the previous year's semi-final at the ground, between the same teams, been left in control.

The bitterly criticised David Duckenfield, who succeeded him, was widely believed to have lost his nerve, but you wondered why he should have been put in control at all at a couple of weeks' notice.

The sequel was an inquiry by Lord Chief Justice Taylor, which decreed that in future all major stadiums – with others to follow – should be entirely seated. The costs were enormous, but the Football Trust met a high proportion of them and at least this scuppered Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's fatuous and unworkable identity card scheme for soccer fans.

In 1992, a coup by the Football Association and the leading English clubs led to their collective withdrawal from the Football

Horrific...the Hillsborough disaster cost the lives of 96 people

League to form a so-called Premier Division. This was engineered by the FA secretary, Graham Kelly, for so many years before then secretary of the Football League, and was very much a two-edged sword.

Strange to think it was the FA who brought off such a coup when for so long the late Alan Hardaker, when secretary of the League, had been engaged in endless conflict and rivalry with the FA.

For my part it seemed a dereliction of duty by the FA, whose traditional job surely was to hold the ring, to be above conflict, to minister to the greater needs of the game, while the League was entrusted with those of their clubs.

Bosman ruling tears down the barriers

A secondary but more important effect of the Bosman Case was that after a series of accommodations, the flimsy barriers against freedom of movement for players in the European Union at long last fell. For a long time the wily old diplomat Artemio Franchi, as president of UEFA, had kept the EEC as it then was at bay, though the Treaty of Rome was clear enough on the freedom of movement. Legally, EU players could not be stopped from operating anywhere they liked within the Union.

So now we would have the phenomenon of teams such as Chelsea sometimes playing with but a single English footballer. Foreigners flowed in, while, ironically, youth schemes burgeoned, sometimes at the cost of millions. But where would their products go?

Rule changes took place, eagerly sought by the secretary of FIFA, Sepp Blatter, later, controversially, to become president in 1998. This despite the fact that the Swedish president of UEFA, Lennart Johansson, seemed to have an impregnable lead.

A German journalist once said

Key dates

July 1994
Colombian defender Andres Escobar, scorer of an own goal at the 1994 World Cup, is shot dead in Medellin.

December 1, 1994
South American champions Velez Sarsfield beat Milan 1-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

May 24, 1995
Ajax beat Milan 1-0 in Vienna to win the European Cup for the fourth time.

July 23, 1995
Uruguay beat Brazil 5-3 on penalties in the Final in Montevideo to win the Copa America.

November 28, 1995
European champions Ajax beat Gremio on penalties after a 0-0 draw in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

December 15, 1995
In a landmark judgment, the European Court rules in favour of Jean-Marc Bosman.

February 3, 1996
South Africa beat Tunisia 2-0 in Johannesburg to win the African Nations Cup.

May 22, 1996
Juventus beat Ajax on penalties in Rome to win the European Cup.

Oliver Bierhoff

June 30, 1996
Germany win the European Championship after Oliver Bierhoff scores the first golden goal in a major Final to beat the Czech Republic 2-1 at Wembley.

July 1996
World record transfer: Alan Shearer, Blackburn to Newcastle, £15million.

August 3, 1996
Nigeria win the Olympic gold medal after beating Argentina 3-2 in the Final in Athens, Georgia.

of Blatter that "he has 50 new ideas every day and 51 of them are bad!" As FIFA representative on the rule-making International Board, Blatter was especially in favour of the new rule that forbade goalkeepers to pick up a back pass, unless it had been headed.

When this was discussed by a board meeting in Newport, I was able to point out to him that a perfectly good rule against time-wasting existed. Yes, he rejoined, but referees were not imposing it. So the game has become somewhat faster, farcical goals are scored when keepers miskick, and frequent injuries are caused when an attacker runs into a keeper.

Then came another change in the offside law. Henceforth, an attacker level with an opponent would be deemed onside rather than off.

Brazil win but fail to impress

The 1994 World Cup was awarded to the United States. I was always convinced it would be a huge success. Soccer, however many people, women included, were playing it at lesser levels, was still a largely un-American activity; the North American Soccer League had long since bitten the dust. But Americans are event snobs and the huge crowds that had attended football games during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics – a level well below World Cups – suggested they would be even greater in 1994. They were.

Roasting heat – what did FIFA ever care about the troops on the ground? – drained the teams. They also sometimes had to fly huge distances, as Italy were obliged to do for the Final, while Brazil were comfortably settled in California.

The Brazilians were coached by Carlos Alberto Parreira, who had had an earlier unsuccessful spell in charge. Mario Zagallo was his assistant.

Their team duly scraped through the Final to win on penalties but theirs was not an impressive side, owing as it did so much to the skills and opportunism of little Romario. He was a hugely skilful, beautifully balanced striker, well supported by Bebeto.

Romario had been excluded from Brazil's team in the qualifying group, only to be brought back against Uruguay when his country's chances of making the finals seemed to be slipping away. He scored twice, Brazil won the game, and went through.

Man United: medals and mega-money

Money continued to talk more and more loudly. Major English clubs became public companies with shareholders, hugely enriching such as Martin Edwards, chief executive of Manchester United, who must have been glad that some years earlier he had failed to sell his shares for a mere £10m to Michael Knighton. In 1999, an attempt by BSkyB television to buy him out was thwarted by the Monopolies Commission, but Edwards, never much loved by United's fans, went on selling shares at a fantastic profit.

As for his club, they proceeded, under the shrewd managership of the Scot Alex Ferguson – who had survived an unhappy beginning – to dominate the League. United also won the Cup-winners Cup in the first season any English club was tentatively allowed back into Europe following the ban imposed after Heysel.

The club's colossal worldwide popularity enabled them to make vast profits of their own, through

Heading for the Final...Romario nods home the only goal of Brazil's semi-final with Sweden in 1994

Men of the Century

October 16, 1996
Guatemala stadium disaster: 81 fans are crushed to death at a World Cup qualifier between Guatemala and Costa Rica.

November 26, 1996
European champions Juventus beat River Plate 1-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

Julio Grondona

91 Julio Grondona
Longest-serving president of the Argentinian FA, in office since 1979, and a major force within CONMEBOL.

92 Majed Abdullah
Confirmed in 1995 as the world's most capped international, with 147 senior matches for Saudi Arabia to his credit.

93 Alex Ferguson
Most successful British manager of the 1980s and 1990s, with Aberdeen and then Manchester United. Has shown sharp judgment in buying players ...and selling them.

94 Sepp Blatter
Swiss administrator who succeeded Joao Havelange as FIFA president in 1998, having previously been FIFA's general secretary.

95 Jean-Marc Bosman
Journeyman Belgian midfielder whose attempted transfer from RFC Liege to Dunkerque in 1990 provoked a legal challenge in the European Court. The resulting ruling in December 1995 ended the transfer system for out-of-contract players within the EC and outlawed foreign player restrictions.

Alex Ferguson

the sale of merchandise, and in 1999 they at long last won the European Cup for the second time.

By then you could hardly call it the Champions Cup: each of eight leading countries was allowed to enter two teams and neither of the finalists, United and Bayern Munich, had won their respective League titles.

UEFA, running scared of Silvio Berlusconi and his gruesome plans for a television League of top clubs – no relegation – first turned the European Cup into the so-called Champions League, chopping and changing when it seemed open to corruption involving teams which no longer had a chance. It then completely radicalised the competition for the 1999-2000 season, when some countries have entered three teams, some even four. Money talked, called the tune, permeated and even poisoned football.

The People's Game, in these days of sponsors, share issues, more and more expensive seats in the stadia? Hardly. And the World Cup of 1998 was bloated again: to 32 teams, so many of which had so little right to be there.

World Cup bursts its seams

Should a World Cup be, as surely was first intended, for the best in the world, or for the world and his wife: the Jamaicas and their like? Since Joao Havelange's coup, it was all too plain the way a once great competition was going; or had gone.

France in front...Zidane scores his first against Brazil in the 98 Final

France, in 1998, did have some epic games, and popular eventual champions, though hardly, any more than in 1994, an outstanding one. Brazilian form was erratic, despite the abundant talent. Romario to his disgust was packed off home early by Zagallo, back in charge, though perhaps he might have recovered. The Boy Wonder, Ronaldo, was said to be suffering from muscular trouble in his over-developed thighs. When it came to

Looking down...Ronaldo with his World Cup Final loser's medal

Key dates

May 28, 1997
Borussia Dortmund win the European Cup for the first time, beating favourites Juventus 3-1 in the Final in Munich.

June 29, 1997
Brazil beat Bolivia 3-1 in the Final of the Copa America in La Paz to retain the trophy.

July 1997
World record transfer: Ronaldo, Barcelona to Internazionale, £19.5million.

December 2, 1997
Borussia Dortmund beat Cruzeiro 2-0 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

February 28, 1998
Egypt win the African Nations Cup in Burkina Faso, beating South Africa 2-0 in the Final.

Wins for Real Madrid

May 20, 1998
Real Madrid beat Juventus 1-0 in Amsterdam to win their seventh European Cup.

June 1998
FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter beats UEFA president Lennart Johansson in the election to succeed Joao Havelange as FIFA president.

June 10-July 12, 1998
16th World Cup finals, held in France.

July 12, 1998
France beat Brazil 3-0 in the World Cup Final in Paris to win the tournament for the first time.

July 1998
World record transfer: Denilson, Sao Paulo to Betis, £23million.

December 2, 1998
Real Madrid beat Vasco da Gama 2-1 in Tokyo to win the World Club Cup.

May 19, 1999
Lazio win the last ever European Cup-winners Cup Final, beating Mallorca 1-0 in the Final.

the Final, it was clear in retrospect, and should have been at the time, that he should not have played.

A resilient Norwegian team had beaten Brazil in the final group game; a disappointing Italy would yet again go out on penalties, this time in the quarter-finals to the French, who searched in vain for an effective striker.

France time it right

Cometh the hour, cometh the man. In a very tight second round game against a defensive Paraguay, the man was the centre-back Laurent Blanc who, in extra time, scored the so-called Golden Goal and, under a new dispensation, ended the game.

In the semi-final against a highly-effective Croatia, who might have done better still if only striker Alen Boksic had been fit, the French prevailed through two well-taken goals from attacking right-back Lilian Thuram, seldom before known as a scorer. But Croatia's left-footed striker, Davor Suker, was the top scorer in the tournament.

In the third-place match Croatia beat a Dutch team unlucky to be eliminated by Brazil in the other semi, and who scored perhaps the most spectacular goal of the tournament, a gem of finesse and opportunism by Dennis Bergkamp, when they beat Argentina in the previous round.

The Argentinians had eliminated England on penalties after extra time, England having put up gallant resistance after their young Manchester United midfielder, David Beckham, had so foolishly got himself sent off.

Paul Gascoigne, such an inspiration with his fine control and remarkable use of the ball in 1990, made the provisional squad but was not in the end selected for the finals by Glenn Hoddle, the former Tottenham midfield star and England manager. The way in which Hoddle handled the situation was somewhat crude, but Gazza, the victim of his own self-destructive tendencies, had again been the prey of his indiscipline. Alas, no player of such skill and invention had emerged in England since Italia 90.

Record fee...Inter paid £31m for Christian Vieri

African teams did less well in 1998, though the contribution of African players to European club football continued to be immense: Eusebio, Mario Coluna, George Weah, Roger Milla, Nwankwo Kanu. The human material was astonishing, but the administration and organisation too often a fiasco.

The Final, at the huge new Stade de France at Saint-Denis, was overshadowed by the troubles, traumas and mysteries of Ronaldo. After he had a convulsive fit, the two Brazilian doctors took him to a clinic where he had a long examination and was pronounced in no danger. Subsequent examinations in Rio showed quite the contrary.

Bizarrely, manager Zagallo was not even told of what had happened at the time. When he heard, he took Ronaldo out of his squad and put in the combustible Edmundo, alias 'The Animal'. However, Ronaldo then turned up at the stadium, insisted he was able to play, and the doctors bowed to his wish. What would have happened, one of them asked later, if they had barred the best player in the world, and Brazil had lost?

In the event, they lost anyway, unhinged by two first-half goals untypically headed by the talented Zinedine Zidane from poorly defended corners. Ronaldo seemed to be running around in a daze, and there was one especially significant moment when, as Fabien Barthez, the French keeper moved to pick up a ball that was clearly his, Ronaldo untypically crashed into him.

One can just about understand Zagallo, given his doctors' opinion, putting Ronaldo on the field. Keeping him on seemed a strange thing to do, and we await an explanation.

Fit for the future?

So at the start of the new century football is more popular, almost frighteningly popular, and certainly so much richer than it ever has been. Players are fitter, players are faster. Whether they and their teams are better remains a matter of dispute.

Transfer fees are hyperbolic: in the summer of 1999 Inter paid Lazio £31m for their centre-forward, Christian Vieri. Television is the dominating medium and even the dominating factor.

Will football last another 100 years? It seems a better than even chance, for all the current excesses.

Men of the Century

May 26, 1999
Manchester United beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in Barcelona to complete a Champions League, League and FA Cup treble.

July 18, 1999
Brazil win the Copa America in Paraguay.

July 1999
World record transfer: Christian Vieri, Lazio to Internazionale, £31million.

Bora Milutinovic

96 & 97 Bora Milutinovic & Carlos Alberto Parreira
First men to coach three different World Cup teams: Milutinovic with Costa Rica (1990), USA (1994) and Nigeria (1998); Parreira with Kuwait (1982), Brazil (1994) and Saudi Arabia (1998).

98 Ronaldo
The first player to win *World Soccer*'s World Player of the Year and FIFA Footballer of the Year awards in consecutive years. A worldwide marketing phenomenon in the 1990s. Still young enough to repeat his earlier success.

Francois Omam-Biyik

99 Francois Omam-Biyik
Cameroon forward and the first African to appear in three World Cup finals, 1990-1998.

100 Chung Mong-joon
Korean FA president who played an instrumental role in securing the World Cup for South Korea in 2002.

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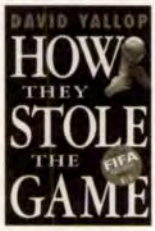

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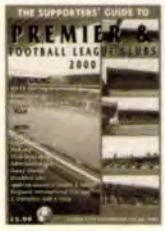

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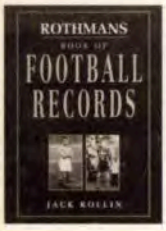

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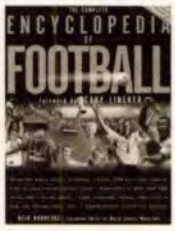

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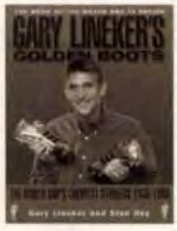

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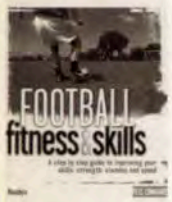

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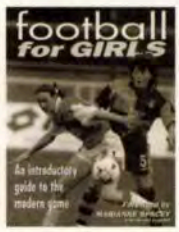

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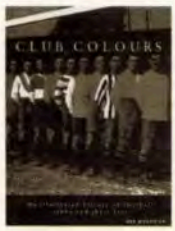

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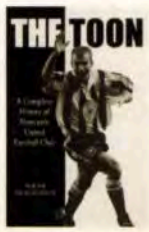

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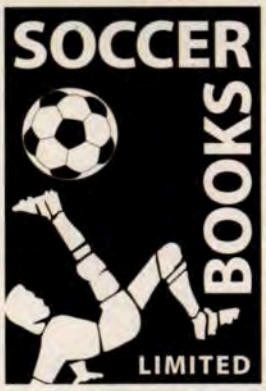

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The numbers game

Keir Radnedge on 100 years of tactical developments

IT was so simple in the middle of the last century. Eleven men on either side chased, like a pack, after the football. A bit like fox-hunting.

Then science began to infiltrate association football. Players grew to realise that the ball should run faster than the man; that organising a team to cover the entire pitch was a more formidable form of attack and more resolute form of defence.

From that point on, the shape of the game changed. From what we might, today, term 1-0-10, the reorganisation of forces brought the game's early exponents through 1-1-9 to the present sophistication – for which the change in the offside law in the 1920s proved a significant catalyst.

In the United Kingdom this has meant steady progress from 2-3-5 to WM to 4-2-4 to 4-3-3, to Alf Ramsey's World Cup-winning 4-4-2 – the so-called Wingless Wonders – and on to detailed developments with the arrivals of 'screens' and 'diamonds' and a new breed of burrowing footballer, playing 'in the hole'.

On the continent of Europe and in South America tactical shapes bent and buckled more quickly, but in diverse ways. At the start of the 1930s continental Europe was still wedded to the old faithful 2-3-5. For much of Europe it was a tactical pattern that stuck throughout the 1930s and was phased out only in the early 1950s.

Austria, blessed with the dominant Ernst Ocwirk – so-called Last of the Attacking Centre-halves – were the last nation to go to a World Cup, in 1954, using the old method. But already their top clubs were switching to WM – so called because the points of the letters corresponded to the players' positions on the field – and the national team followed suit after the return from that tournament.

Three men led the tactical revolution in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s: Herbert Chapman, the inventive manager of Huddersfield, then Arsenal; Vittorio Pozzo, manager of the Italian national team throughout the latter decade; and Karl Rappan, an Austrian international who earned even greater fame after switching to coaching in Switzerland in the mid-1930s.

Chapman understood quicker than anyone else the significance of the change in the offside law. From the 1925-26 season, only two instead of three defenders were needed to keep an attacker onside. To counter this, the Arsenal manager pulled his centre-half between the two full-backs and shifted his wing-halves to more central positions on the pitch.

Arsenal's dramatic success with the so-called third-back game turned Chapman into a football legend.

Vanishing breed...Austria's Ernst Ocwirk, Last of the Attacking Centre-halves

CHANGING PLACES The teams, players and managers who made the difference

Bury

FA Cup winners, 1900
2-3-5

Arsenal

FA Cup winners, 1936
Coach: George Allison
3-2-5 (WM)

Internazionale

Italian champions, 1953
Coach: Alfredo Foni
3-3-4

Modern great...Facchetti

As for Pozzo, he guided Italy to victory, on home soil, in the 1934 World Cup with a team playing 2-3-5, which the Italians called *metodo* (The Method). But when it was time to defend the Cup four years later in France, Pozzo had replaced his old-fashioned attacking centre-half, Argentine/Italian Luisito Monti from Juventus, with a new-style 'stopper' – the Uruguayan/Italian Michele Andreolo, from Bologna.

The Italians called the new shape *sistema* (The System).

The need to change defensive shapes to cope with the change of the offside law was an issue which, simultaneously, exercised the football brain of Rappan. While Pozzo was developing an Italian version of WM, so Rappan was refining a far more sophisticated idea called the *Verrou* (or Swiss Bolt).

It worked like this: the old wing-halves remained wide in midfield rather than moving inside as in the WM. But the centre of defence was rebuilt with the two full-backs switching into the centre of the pitch. One full-back marked the opposing centre-forward, the other stood *behind* him to provide cover and deal with an onrushing inside-forward if the centre-forward laid off the ball to right or left. In midfield, meanwhile, one of the inside-forwards dropped back alongside the old attacking centre-half in the creative heart of the team. That left, of course, four forwards as full-time attackers.

Much later the scheme was converted in Italy into *catenaccio* (The Bolt). But what gave the *Verrou* its positive philosophy was that the defenders were expected to change duties when their team gained possession. Then, the 'free' full-back moved up on to the opposing centre-forward, the marking full-back moved up into midfield and the withdrawn inside-forward moved up into attack. It was highly sophisticated, it demanded a great deal of football intelligence and practice...which was probably the reason it failed to catch on anywhere else.

Tactical development moved on the quickest in Italy in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The big clubs such as Internazionale, Juventus, Milan and Roma spent heavily on an unlimited number of star foreign forwards – mainly from South America but also from the easy pickings to be had from among the amateur football ranks in Scandinavia. Sweden's inside-forward trio of Nils Liedholm, Gunnar Nordahl and Gunnar Gren transferred wholesale to Milan and left a trail of devastation among the minnow clubs' defences. Something had to be done.

Two men set about the task. One was Nereo Rocco, a rugged half-back then coach with his hometown team, Padova, in the late 1940s; the other was Alfredo Foni, a World Cup-winning full-back in the 1930s and coach to Inter in the early 1950s.

Rocco was the first coach to recognise that small clubs had to find some way of repelling the big clubs' foreign superstars. He did so by importing the *Verrou* – and using it solely in its defensive application. Padova would then hit the opposition on the counter-attack.

Quickly the plan spread. Small clubs such as Udinese in the 1950s achieved remarkable success by holding deep in defence and hitting hard on the break.

So effective did the counter-attack style prove that it was not long before the big clubs adopted it.

Inter were the first to head down that path, winning the League twice in the early 1950s using Foni's own defence-orientated scheme. Foni's variation was to withdraw right-winger Gino Armani into midfield alongside the two wing-halves. With the opposition thus stifled in midfield, Inter jabbed their way to championship success at a time when the likes of Milan and Juventus boasted the more talented individuals.

In due course, the Moroccan-born, Argentine-educated, French and Spanish-polished Helenio Herrera created at Inter the most effective *catenaccio* team of all. They won the World Club Cup and the European Cup twice in the mid-1960s with a team that combined the most ruthless man-marking defensive discipline with footballing genius.

Strategic result...Inter carry off the European Cup in 1964

Goalkeeper Giuliano Sarti, attacking left-back Giacinto Facchetti, Spanish schemer Luis Suarez and attack director Sandro Mazzola count among the greatest players of the modern era.

Not until Arrigo Sacchi's arrival at Milan in the mid-1980s did Italian football begin seriously

Hungary
6-3 v England, 1953
Coach: Gusztav Sebes
3-2-5 (with deep-lying forward)

Brazil
World Cup winners, 1958
Coach: Vicente Feola
4-2-4

Brazil
World Cup winners, 1962
Coach: Aimore Moreira
4-3-3

Talent over tactics...Garrincha shows his flair

European pragmatists even developed the change numerically: they numbered the centre-back '3' so the left-back became '4' and the right-half '5'.

The legendary Hungarians of the early 1950s added a twist to their use of WM: No 5 was an attacking half-back whose main link with the forwards was the withdrawn centre-forward, No 9 Nandor Hidegkuti. Their partnership allowed the inside-forwards, Sandor Kocsis and Ferenc Puskas, until then the heart of the attacking engine-room, to push forward in attack *behind* the opposing wing-halves who were supposed to be marking them.

It was simple logic, which proved devastating against England, both in 1953 at Wembley (where Hungary scored six) and in 1954 in Budapest (where they scored seven).

Such a numbers game also went hand-in-hand with the tactical developments to be found in South America through the central years of the soccer century.

Up until the early 1950s everyone still played 2-3-5 and the old attacking centre-half remained king. Indeed, the tradition of the big, powerful, domineering No 5 remains inherent in Argentine football to this day, no matter the tactical changes that have gone on to address the need for an 'all-pitch' tactic, rather than a safety-first philosophy.

Other ideas interacted along the way – such as the rigid, zonal offside ploy operated by Belgium and Anderlecht in the early 1960s and the 'Total football' of Ajax and Holland a decade later.

But Total football – bringing to life The Whirl envisaged by Willy Meisl in his magnificent book *Soccer Revolution* – was applicable only by highly-intelligent and versatile players, and was more a style than a tactic. Not that this should in any way diminish the revolutionary performances of Ajax and Holland in the early 1970s when a team of highly-skilled football intellectuals – typified by Johan Cruyff – sent opponents dizzy with their intuitive, inter-changing action.

The development of the third-back game in continental Europe in the 1950s had produced some other fascinating side-effects. Eastern

Sprung into action...Argentina's Jorge Valdano against England at the 1986 World Cup

CHANGING PLACES (continued)

Internazionale
European Cup winners, 1964
Coach: Helenio Herrera
1-3-3-3 (*catenaccio*)

England
World Cup winners, 1966
Coach: Alf Ramsey
4-4-2

Ajax
European Cup winners, 1973
Coach: Stefan Kovacs
4-3-3 (Total football)

around him: from Monti in the 1930s to Nestor Rossi in the 1940s and 1950s, Antonio Rattin in the 1960s, Americo Gallego in the 1970s, Daniel Batista in the 1980s and, even now, Fernando Redondo and Matias Almeyda.

Flamengo, under Paraguayan coach Fleitas Solich, are credited with being the first Brazilian side to move from 2-3-5 to 4-2-4. Solich took the WM, moved the left-back in alongside the centre-back and withdrew the left-half to left-back. To cover the gap in midfield he pulled the inside-right back across the centre of midfield.

The numerical order of a typical Brazilian team in the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s looked something like this: 1 – 2, 5, 3, 6 – 4, 8 – 7, 9, 10, 11. That was how it worked with Brazil at the 1958 World Cup when the rest of the world suddenly saw 4-2-4 for the first time.

Overnight, the shape was copied slavishly throughout Europe (West Ham were among its first exponents in England), but with mixed success: Brazil were brilliantly successful not so much because of their tactics but because of the great talents of such players as Pele, Garrincha, Didi, Vava, etc.

Uruguay and Argentina both developed their own versions of 4-2-4 but took almost a decade longer. Their independent paths were marked by the way their own numerical systems varied.

Uruguay followed the traditional 2-3-5 in that the original full-backs ('2' and '3') became the centre-backs, while the original wing-halves became the 'new' full-backs. Uruguay, at the back, thus numbered: 4, 2, 3, 6. Different again in Argentina, where the right-back (opposite to Brazil) stepped across into the centre of defence and the right-half dropped to right-back (thus 4, 2, 6, 3).

Both Uruguay and Argentina thus retained the notional old attacking centre-half (No 5) in midfield where Brazil did not.

Observers may consider this a not insignificant factor in the difference in attitude between the technically entertaining Brazilian game and the skilfully pragmatic approach developed on either side of the River Plate in Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

The Brazilian 4-2-4 was the first universal tactical shift since Herbert Chapman's switch to WM and the stopper centre-half at the start of the 1930s. Like Chapman's WM it was subject to variations and the Brazilians themselves were among the initial deviants.

At the 1962 World Cup, coach Aimore Moreira felt that an ageing team needed a change of balance. Thus he withdrew left-winger Mario Zagallo into midfield (in much the same way that Alfredo Foni had pulled back Gino Armani at Inter a decade earlier). Brazil duly won the World Cup again – and saw 4-3-3 copied as slavishly as 4-2-4 four years earlier.

The different needs of European conditions and football led England to produce the 4-4-2 with which Alf Ramsey's men captured the World Cup in 1966 and which became a model for much of top-level professional football for the rest of the century. It provided plenty of cover for defence and it ensured plenty of possession in midfield as well as plenty of support players behind the two strikers.

World champions...Maradona and Co take the plaudits in 1986

It was to be almost 20 years before 4-4-2 was overtaken. France hinted at the next step in their 1984 European Championship-winning side but it took Diego Maradona's Argentina to prove that playing three at the back was *not* the route to suicide that many coaches had forecast.

The 1986 World Cup in Mexico provided an ideal stage for 3-5-2 to come of age. Midday kick-offs with all the accompanying problems of heat and altitude guaranteed a more technical style of football and mitigated against the more physical European game. Such conditions created an ideal testing ground for the 3-5-2 system produced by Argentina coach Carlos Bilardo.

He recognised that teams would attack with only two strikers. Therefore, it needed only two markers and a sweeper to 'look after' them. That released an extra defender from the traditional four-man back line, creating a five-man midfield. Argentina thus remained secure at the back while dominating the opposition numerically in midfield. This in turn provided an ideal springboard from which the likes of Diego Maradona and Jorge Valdano could attack opposing defences – and with even more men than usual in support. Thus did Argentina, with more than a helping hand from Maradona, destroy England in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final.

Little has changed since then. Shapes vary. An interested spectator can travel from Spain to France to Germany to Italy over a long weekend and see a variety of shapes – some coaches preferring a lone striker with three men in support, some preferring two up front with one man in support.

It has been a long and winding road from Herbert Chapman's stopper centre-half. And yet, nearly 70 years after he introduced the three-man defence, the tactical football has rolled full circle.

Argentina

World Cup winners, 1986
Coach: Carlos Bilardo
3-5-2

Wingless winners...England celebrate their 1966 World Cup triumph

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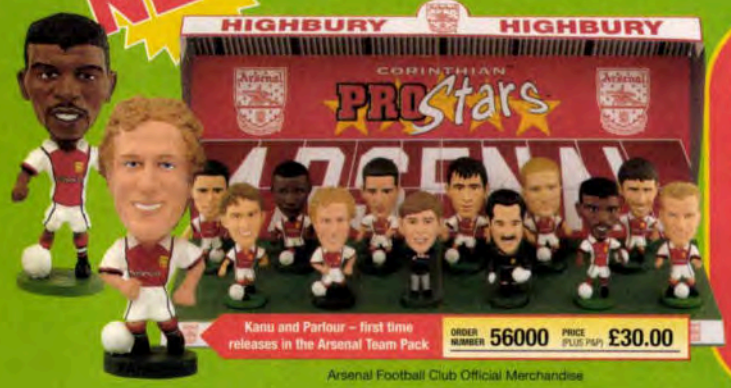

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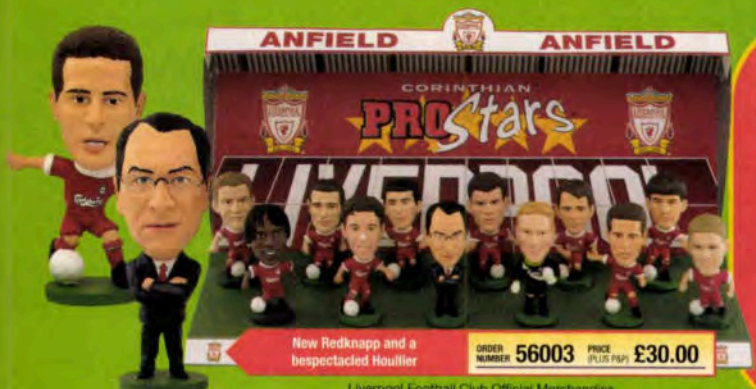

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The greatest game of all

Keir Radnedge recalls the 10-goal thriller that revolutionised modern football

May 18, 1960 – Hampden Park, Glasgow
European Champions Cup Final

REAL MADRID 7
(Di Stefano 27, 30, 74, Puskas 44, pen 56, 60, 71)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 3
(Kress 10, Stein 72, 76)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 127,621
Ref: Jack Mowat (Sco)

REAL MADRID: Dominguez – Marquitos, Pachin, Vidal, Santamaria, Zarraga, Canario, Del Sol, Di Stefano, Puskas, Gento. Coach: Miguel Munoz.
EINTRACHT: Loy – Lutz, Hofer, Weilbacher, Eigenbrodt, Stinka, Kress, Lindner, Stein, Pfaff, Meier. Coach: Paul Osswald.

REAL MADRID'S destruction of Eintracht Frankfurt has long been acknowledged as the Greatest Football Match of All Time. The perspective of 39 subsequent seasons suggests that it also should be considered as the Most Significant Match of All Time.

Glancing now at the black-and-white recording, that 1960 European Champions Cup Final has an other-worldly feel to it. The players act out their roles in vast swathes of space. The pace does not compare with today's frenetic activities.

Of course, no European final nowadays could ever be as open or end in such a scoreline. Indeed, when Milan beat Steaua by a four-goal margin in 1989 the air was heavy with suspicious talk of a fix.

When Milan beat Barcelona five years later, again by four goals, the talk was of Barcelona's failings. Yet Milan's performance that day was the finest in a Final since Madrid overwhelmed Frankfurt in front of more than 125,000 at Hampden Park, Glasgow, on May 18, 1960.

To see that match for what it was, consider first the context – a context far removed from the pop-star idiom in which professional soccer operates today.

First, the European Cup, as it was easily known, was only five years old. It had been launched by the French sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*. The competing clubs were the champions of their countries. Yet UEFA, at that time only four years old, had only 30 members and very little money. This was not the all-embracing, pan-European, Midas-fingered corporation that runs European football today. Indeed, the early-round draw had been split geographically to ease the travel burdens.

The stage for the early tournaments was a Europe mithered by political suspicions forgotten today. For example, when Partizan Belgrade went to play Madrid in a European Cup tie in the mid-1950s they were sneaked in and out of the airport without going through customs because, officially, Spain had no political relations with the countries of the Eastern bloc and, strictly speaking, the Slavs should not have been allowed in.

See now how sport has broken down barriers. Keep politics out of sport? In many instances, sport has shown politics the way.

The European Cup itself was not organised as it is today. It was a straight knockout competition with each tie played over two legs, home and away. The

No chance...Puskas sends Loy the wrong way from the penalty spot and Real go 4-1 up

Favourite player: Kubala A different sort of genius

HE WAS known, by turns, as Lazslo, then Ladislav, then Ladislao. The bending of his name reflected the curve of his career, from Hungary to Czechoslovakia and then on to Spain via Italy. But the surname was secure: Kubala.

Had he stayed in his native Hungary his star would have shone as brightly as that of Ferenc Puskas or Sandor Kocsis among those magical Magyars of the early 1950s. But Kubala was a football gypsy; a player and a man with a mind of his own.

He was tall, fair-haired, naturally powerful, and read the game like an open book. His father-in-law, Ferdinand Daucik, had been a Czech international before the Second World War.

Kubala, born in Hungary, was persuaded by Daucik to go and play in Bratislava in the mid-1940s. He was capped by Czechoslovakia then was pressured to go home to Budapest and was capped again, this time by Hungary.

But Kubala and a repressive regime had no time for one another. He hid his family under a tarpaulin in the back of a truck and escaped to Italy.

Nobody wanted to know him. So he set up a touring team of refugees as a showcase for his talents. Soon, Barcelona were hooked. Kubala, in the early 1950s, became arguably their greatest and most popular player ever.

He scored title-winning goals from centre-forward, then turned playmaker from inside-right. He was capped for Spain, then fell out of favour at Camp Nou when Helenio Herrera became

dates were not organised in a fixtures straitjacket, as now. It was up to the clubs to sort those out. Thus ties took place haphazardly. If the aggregate scores were level after the second leg then a play-off was held in a neutral country, further complicating the programme. There was no such thing as away goals counting double; no such thing as penalty shoot-outs; no substitutes either.

Real Madrid would never have achieved their initial dominance if today's away goals rule had been in force. They would have been knocked out by Rapid Wien in only the second season. Madrid won 4-2 at home and lost 3-1 away. They then 'persuaded' Rapid to accept a play-off in Madrid, which they duly won 2-0. On such historical nuances have legends been built.

No multi-million, multi-national sponsorship in those days, so no revolving multi-coloured placards around the side of the pitch and jostling for space behind the goals. But then, no phalanx of television cameras to project the brand names, either.

TV coverage was spasmodic, to say the least. Most countries had only one television channel and that was state-owned, financed and run. Football made only rare appearances on the tiny screens. That is why so few scraps of film remain of the golden early years of the European Cup. All in black and white. Colour television did not hit soccer until the 1970 World Cup – which is one reason why so much emphasis has devolved on players, teams and events from the past 30 years. Their great and not-so-great deeds are in the colour archives. Their often-greater forebears of the sketchy black-and-white era are not so fortunate.

In 1960, international competition was in its infancy. The Mitropa Cup was an international club contest that set central European football alight in the inter-war years. Its two-leg, direct knockout format was the one adopted by the European Cup pioneers. But the European Championship had begun only the previous year and, in those days, only 16 nations competed in the World Cup finals. Indeed, that tournament was so modest in size that nations such as Sweden, Switzerland and Chile could happily host them.

National teams met, mostly, in friendly matches. The British Home Championship, oldest international tournament of them all, consisted of only six matches but was organised throughout the length of each season with matches played on a

My ball...Dominguez collects a corner

'The magic of Madrid entranced fans all over Europe and created an allure that continues to cling to the club'

Saturday while the Football League programme carried on simultaneously. If England wanted Billy Wright, Bill Slater and Peter Broadbent, then they played for England while Wolves faced Burnley or Bolton or Preston in the First Division without them. Nobody quibbled. Nobody even thought to quibble.

The European Cup opened players' eyes financially, too. For instance, Alfredo Di Stefano, Francisco Gento and Jose Maria Zarraga took home to Madrid a bonus of £1,250 from Hampden, representing £250 for each of the five European Cup Finals they had won. That may sound derisory now but in 1960 it was sensational money – doubly so, because English League players were then paid a fixed maximum of £20 per week.

International football for clubs appeared an exotic experiment and one that might not last. It was a delicate, fragile concept. The Munich air disaster of 1958, in which eight Manchester United players died, had prompted long debates throughout European football about whether the event justified the risks.

That the European Cup succeeded was down to three factors. One: the fans. No fewer than 127,621 turned out to stand on the terraces at Hampden to see Madrid against Frankfurt. Never mind that today's redeveloped Hampden cannot hold even half that capacity – and now, of course, the fans must sit. Today, no neutral venue could guarantee to turn out such a crowd. Bear in mind, also, that only a few weeks earlier, in the semi-finals, this same Frankfurt side had thrashed six goals past Rangers both home and away. You might have thought a large slice of the Glasgow footballing public would have seen more than enough of Frankfurt. But then, the European Cup ideal appealed to the fans in a way many conservative football administrators failed to grasp.

A second key to the explosive success of European club competition was the Real Madrid club. President Santiago Bernabeu was one administrator who had seen the future and believed it would work.

He sent aide Raimundo Saporta scurrying around the world signing the greatest players to build the most exciting team, which he then used to fill the most grandiose new stadium. The magic of Madrid entranced fans throughout Europe and created a reputation and allure that clings to the club to this day – whatever the turbulence around Lorenzo Sanz, John Toshack and Co.

The third – and equally important – key was Di Stefano. For many he remains the greatest footballer of all time. He was born in Argentina, educated in football in the pirate league of Colombia and rose beyond compare after joining Madrid.

Di Stefano was a perpetual motion centre-forward who considered the entire pitch his realm. In an era when players kept to fixed positions, Di Stefano brought tireless revolution. His stamina was amazing. He personified Willy Meisl's dream of The Whirl and he pre-dated Holland's Total football by more than a decade.

Di Stefano scored in each of the first five European Cup Finals and was Madrid's best player in just about all of them. He was imperious in his command on the pitch and in the dressing-room. It was said that, when Madrid signed Didi, Brazil's 1958 World Cup-winning playmaker, Di Stefano offered the icy greeting: "The papers say you've come to replace me. You're too old and you're not good enough."

Memories of Madrid link Di Stefano with the greatest Hungarian, Ferenc Puskas. But Puskas had not joined Madrid until 1958. He was Europe's greatest player in the early 1950s, then fled Hungary during the uprising of 1956. The Communists tried to persuade FIFA to block his return to football but Madrid defied them, just as Barcelona had earlier

coach. Kubala was too long in the tooth to fall in with Herrera's slogans, superstitions and tactical strategies. He played football not to preconceived plans and shapes and schemes but to a different rhythm altogether – the rhythm of each game.

Herrera wanted him out but Kubala was still an idol of the Catalan fan and the directors were too frightened to sell him.

In due course, Herrera was sacked after a Champions Cup semi-final defeat by Real Madrid in the spring of 1960. Six months later, Barcelona and Madrid clashed again in the Champions Cup. This time Barcelona drew 2-2 in Madrid and won 2-1 at home. Kubala, using space to command the game, was omnipotent.

The enraptured fans did not wait for the final whistle in the second leg to pay homage. Midway through the second half they gave him a standing ovation.

Time, of course, was the ultimate winner. Kubala transferred across the city to become player-coach of Espanyol. He virtually gave up playing altogether.

Then, in the spring of 1965, he accompanied Alfredo Di Stefano and Ferenc Puskas to the Stanley Matthews Farewell Match at Stoke. Di Stefano and Puskas had been invited to play for the World XI against a British Select. Kubala went for the occasion but took his boots.

As with so many of these all-star games, someone did not turn up. At the last minute Kubala was asked to play. And he did, delightfully and delightedly.

Few teams in the history of the game have had an inside-forward trio of such magnitude: Kubala, Di Stefano and Puskas. Sciatica got the better of the ageing Di Stefano at half-time and he was substituted. But Kubala stayed the pace. He had not played full-time for a year but you would never have guessed.

Later Kubala managed Barcelona a couple of times, as well as the Spanish national team and enjoyed modest success. But he should not be remembered as a coach; only as a player. And not merely a player, either, but a footballing giant.

Keir Radnedge

defied them over Ladislav Kubala. Puskas, overweight and unfit, took six months to regain fitness and greatness, but he did. And, most important, he became the perfect technical and tactical foil to Di Stefano. No longer did the Hungarian drift back into midfield. He left that sphere to Di Stefano. Puskas was content to hang forward and enjoy to the utmost what he did best – scoring goals with his mighty left foot.

He made it look easy. After all, he was playing ahead of and alongside the greatest creator in the game.

Madrid thus came to Hampden with the status of great champions. They had won the European Cup for the first four years of its existence. They were dictators of European football – and European football, down subsequent years, took its expanding orders from the law Madrid laid down.

Frankfurt, ranged against them, bore no relation to today's Bayern Munich or Borussia Dortmund. They were champions of 'only' West Germany. And German football then remained largely part-time, organised on a geographical basis with the winners in the regions meeting in an end-of-season series to sort out the national champions.

Critics thought Frankfurt had lost something in the year since their German title triumph. The Hungarian striker, Istvan Sztani, had left to join Standard Liege. His replacement, Irwin Stein, was a hard-working but more prosaic sort of footballer. Ironically, Stein was to become one of Frankfurt's enduring Hampden heroes.

There were no foreigners in the Frankfurt side; five among the Madrid line-up – goalkeeper Rogelio Dominguez from Argentina, Uruguayan centre-back Jose Santamaria, Brazilian right-winger Canario and, of course, Argentina's Di Stefano (by now a Spanish international) and Hungary's Puskas (also due to become a Spanish international).

Bernabeu said later: "This was Madrid's greatest game." And not only Madrid's – though the initial signals were not encouraging.

Frankfurt reckoned that their best chance of victory would come from hitting Madrid with all they had in the first 15 minutes. In the 10th minute Dieter Lindner slipped the ball out to Stein on the right. He took it to the byline and held off a challenge from Pachin long enough to slip a short centre to the near post, where right-winger Richard Kress turned it into the net. Dominguez, Santamaria and skipper Zarraga all arrived a fraction too late.

Breakthrough...Kress puts Eintracht ahead

'The crowd was delirious. Such football, and such finishing. There had never been anything quite like it'

Then the match slowly turned. Santamaria bolted the doors down the middle. Di Stefano slowed the pace in midfield. Gento, nicknamed *El Supersonico* because of his speed, began to flicker menacingly out on the left wing. In the 27th minute Luis Del Sol sent Canario down the right. The winger outpaced three defenders and Di Stefano swept his centre past Egon Loy in the Frankfurt goal. Madrid were level. The balance of power had turned.

Three minutes later Canario was away again. His cross seemed harmless but Loy fumbled it and Di Stefano was there to prod the ball home. Then, a minute before the interval, came a third – and psychologically devastating – goal. Puskas caught Hans-Walter Eigenbrodt hesitating and punished the error.

The Germans tried to begin the second half as they had begun the first. But the cause was beyond them. Left-winger Erich Meier, so dangerous against Rangers, was now completely subdued by Marquitos.

In the 56th minute Madrid scored again. Del Sol broke out of defence and sent Gento down the left from halfway. He was baulked by a defender inside the Frankfurt penalty box and Puskas cannoned the spot-kick past Loy.

Four more minutes and the resourceful Del Sol won a corner. Frankfurt failed to clear it and Puskas smashed home his third goal. That was No 5 for Madrid. No 6 soon followed – Del Sol breaking on his own, beating Dieter Stinka for speed and serving the ball on a plate for Puskas to hammer his fourth.

Frankfurt, still fighting valiantly, struck back twice through Stein, but in between Di Stefano waltzed through their entire team to complete his own hat-trick and crown his evening's work. Loy never moved.

The crowd was delirious. Such football, such finishing. Madrid collected their cup, ran a lap of honour and found Frankfurt waiting to applaud them off the pitch.

There had never been anything quite like it; nothing would ever be quite the same again.

Within six months Madrid had been knocked off their perch – defeated in the following season's European Cup by Barcelona – though not before they won the inaugural World Club Cup. Within a few years defensive tactics and temperamental cynicism changed the face and nature of the game for ever. *Catenaccio,* the 'wingless wonders', and a myriad other tactical inventions born of the fear of defeat infected European football. The work ethic took over and fitness levels were forced up and up to serve it. Technique and entertainment suffered.

The face of the game changed irrevocably. But it changed to the agenda Madrid had set: a popular, internationalist agenda whose success was fuelled by the commercial revolution wrought by the partnership of television and sponsorship.

Madrid remain one of the world's great clubs. The same cannot be said for Frankfurt, who struggle to maintain their top-division status in a German game revolutionised first by the creation of the national championship, the Bundesliga, then by unification.

Di Stefano and Puskas went into coaching and then retired to the periphery as respected elder statesmen; ghosts from another era. Puskas is now happily reconciled to Hungary, land of his birth; Di Stefano still lives in Spain. They meet rarely.

I last saw them together after the 1995 Cup-winners Cup Final between Zaragoza and Arsenal in Paris. They had been honoured guests at a reception before the match. Afterwards they drifted away together in the crowd.

The fans milling around them had no idea how much they owed to these two middle-aged men, walking out of the stadium together...or, for that matter, how much today's football owes them.

Most memorable moment A touch of Marzolini magic

THE 1966 World Cup quarter-final between England and Argentina has lived on in football legend for all the wrong reasons. Among them, Antonio Rattin's expulsion; the threatened walk-out; the antagonistic atmosphere.

Yet it also featured one of the most sublime pieces of skill I have witnessed in 40 years of international football-watching.

It came early in the second half, out on Argentina's left wing, midway inside their half. The left-back was Silvio Marzolini, fair-haired, slim, quick, from Boca Juniors (later to become their coach).

He suddenly found himself in the most intimidating of situations, having been given a short pass although he was tight on the touchline with Nobby Stiles and Alan Ball descending ravenously upon him.

Lesser players would have found themselves, and the ball, being bundled out of play. Not Marzolini. With a deft touch of the ball, a dip of the left shoulder and a graceful stride to his right, he slipped between Stiles and Ball and glided out into open space.

It was a wondrous moment, sheer football magic – and all the more remarkable in such a tempestuous context.

Most veteran observers of the game, asked to name the greatest left-back of all time, rarely venture further than Brazil's Nilton Santos or Italy's Giacinto Facchetti.

Personally, I would cast my mind back to July 1966 and vote for Silvio Marzolini...on the strength of a split second in the Wembley sunshine.

Keir Radnedge

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Pele, Maradona...and quite a few more

Eric Weil remembers the South American players who have stamped their mark on the game over the past 100 years

Star quality...Pele and Maradona together in 1987

THE TOP TWO stars of the century are widely accepted to be Pele and Maradona, but true comparisons are impossible. They never officially played together.

A year after Maradona's top-division career (1976-1997) began, Pele (1956-1977) retired, and soccer tactics had changed greatly between the times when they were at their peak.

So what of the other great South Americans to have made their mark on the century?

Older Argentinians will argue that Jose Manuel Moreno, who played from 1935 to 1957 (in the River Plate team they called 'The Machine' and 33 times for Argentina) was better than both of them, but he never played in a World Cup, because Argentina did not take part at the time.

On a Saturday night before a match he used to stay out very late, playing cards, drinking and womanising, and he certainly did not train as hard as they do these days, but that never affected his outstanding play.

Argentina's five Brown brothers, of Scottish ancestry, are still legends even though they played right at the beginning of the century and were internationals between 1902 and 1910. Four of them created a record unlikely to be beaten by playing for Argentina in a 3-2 victory over Brazil in Rio in 1908. Jorge, Alfredo, Eliseo and Ernesto played (Carlos was missing), and a cousin, Juan, also was in the team.

Brazilian Artur Friedenreich was an agile centre-forward ahead of his time, starred for Brazil and several Brazilian clubs – of which only Sao Paulo and Flamengo still exist – and scored 1,329 goals in a 26-year career during which he was said never to have missed a penalty.

Leonidas Da Silva was Brazil's star of the 1930s and those who saw this formidable striker play rated him alongside Pele. In Brazil they called him 'Rubber Man' because of his agility and his frequently-used bicycle kick, while in Europe – where he was top scorer in the 1938 World Cup – he was given the name 'Black Diamond'.

Argentina striker Bernabe Ferreyra is credited with making River Plate great in the early days of professionalism. River bought him for a record fee (then £8,000) in 1932, and had to build a bigger stadium because some 25,000 fans who wanted to see him were left outside each week.

With his terrifically hard shot he scored 204 goals in 195 club games – an average that has never been bettered – and a local newspaper offered gold medals to goalkeepers he failed to beat.

River Plate became known as the 'Millionaires' because they splashed out the first big transfer fee when professional soccer began in 1931 – £6,300 for Carlos Peucelle – and he certainly repaid them. Peucelle was the first to play all over the field and in his time he filled every position.

He played in the first World Cup, gained 50 caps and was instrumental in creating what is still considered Argentina's best club team – River Plate's 'Machine' – first as a player and then coach in the 1930s and early 1940s.

Paraguayan Arsenio Erico, playing for Independiente in Argentina, was for many the most outstanding goal-getter of all, and he still holds Argentina's League record with 47 in 1937. He was chiefly responsible for Independiente's title win that

MILLENNIUM MEMORIES

CRAIG BROWN, Scotland coach
Favourite player: I've seen most of the great Scottish players – Law, Baxter, Dalglish, Souness – but my personal favourite was **DAVE MACKAY** (Hearts, Spurs & Scotland). I always made a point of seeing him play when he was with Hearts. He was strong and fearless, a really hard tackler with total commitment. The sort of guy you'd always want to have on your side.
Most memorable match: **ENGLAND 2 SCOTLAND 3** (Wembley, 1967). England were world champions and I watched from the terracing as Scotland destroyed them. Jim Baxter ran the show from midfield and the eventual 3-2 scoreline was a bit of a fallacy – we absolutely murdered them that day.

BOB VAUGHAN, *World Soccer* contributor on Eastern Europe
Favourite player: **GYULA GROSICS** (Honved, Tatabanya & Hungary). He was more consistent than Yashin over some 18 seasons, giving many memorable performances while often in fear for his life and those of his family in post-revolutionary Hungary.

JOHN CHARLES
Favourite player: **ALFREDO DI STEFANO**, simply a truly *great* footballer.
Most memorable match: **BRAZIL 1 WALES 0** (1958 World Cup, Sweden). I didn't play in the match but it was a great game and an excellent Welsh performance – I say to this day that we were unlucky not to win!

First to 100 caps...Djalma Santos

year – and the club won another in 1938, when Erico scored 43. He could outjump taller players, and they called him 'the man with the hidden springs'.

Angel Labruna was another outstanding member of that River Plate 'Machine' forward line, in which he outlived the others. He played for the club from 1932 to 1959 – scoring almost 0.6 goals per game during the period – and did not retire until the age of 41. This alone made him prominent in the history of this great club, but he also returned to coach them to a number of titles.

Labruna is not as well known internationally as he deserves, even though he earnt 37 caps. Argentina rarely played outside their own continent at that time.

On the other hand, Alfredo Di Stefano, who played in that forward line for little more than a season, being the country's top scorer in 1947, became a world figure, considered by many the most complete centre-forward ever.

Then there was Garrincha, who played for Brazil in 51 full internationals between 1955 and 1966, and – incredible as it may seem – was on the losing side only once. That defeat came on his final appearance, during the 1966 World Cup. To think that in 1958 psychologists had recommended his exclusion from the national side because "he was mentally unbalanced". His artistry and ball control left both followers and foes spellbound.

Polio as a child left him with a distorted left leg, making it even more difficult for opponents to know which way he was going. Defenders may have known Garrincha's tactics – a left feint, a right swerve, a goal-producing centre – but still could not stop him.

Sadly he could not cope with his private life nor life without soccer, and died drunk and drugged at the age of 49.

For many, Waldir Pereira 'Didi' was the key to Brazil's star-studded 1958 and 1962 World Cup winners. He appeared to be slow, but was an outstanding tactician. That served him well as a coach, when he took Peru to their best World Cup finish – the quarter-finals in 1970.

Djalma Santos, who played in four World Cups, was yet another outstanding Brazilian. He was a big, efficient and clean defender, athletic, reliable and very professional. He was also the first of only four South Americans to join the '100 Club', winning exactly 100 caps.

The second was Hector Chumpitaz, Peru's best-ever defender. He earned 111 caps and played in the 1970 and 1978 World Cup finals, when a national team without him was impossible to imagine. His 20-year First Division career ended only in 1983 at the age of 40.

Argentinian midfielder Antonio Rattin is best known for being sent off during the 1966 World Cup quarter-final against England at Wembley, which caused quite a scandal, but he should be remembered as the last classic centre-half on the continent.

'Defenders may have known Garrincha's tactics – a left feint, a right swerve – but they still could not stop him'

Uruguay probably has had more outstanding players than any South American country in relation to population. Two must be mentioned – defender Obdulio Varela, captain and architect of Uruguay's sensational 2-1 victory over Brazil in the 1950 World Cup decider, and centre-forward Fernando Morena, the country's highest club and international scorer.

Argentina record...Oscar Ruggeri

Carlos Valderrama became the third South American to join the 100 Club with 103 caps for Colombia in the 1980s and 1990s, and his efforts had a lot to do with putting the country on the soccer map. You could not miss his crop of yellow hair.

One player who just missed the century, Oscar Ruggeri, won 98 caps from 1986 to 1994, which included appearances at three World Cups (winning one). He is Argentina's most capped player.

South America has had a long list of outstanding goalkeepers, most from Argentina (Amadeo Carrizo, Ubaldo Fillol and many others), but Colombian Rene Higuita gets a mention because he was the first internationally known to score goals (from penalties and free-kicks) as well as stopping them, and he is still doing it. His 'scorpion' save against England at Wembley has gone down in soccer history.

Don't tell me about all the stars of this century I have missed out. I can't write a book in a magazine.

IGOR BELANOV (left), ex-Kyiv Dynamo & USSR
Favourite player: **OLEG BLOKHIN** (Kyiv Dynamo & USSR) Super forward who is an example for future generations.
Most memorable match: **BRAZIL 4 ITALY 1** (1970 World Cup Final). Pele and Co created a real masterpiece of world football.

IVAR VON RULACH, *World Soccer* correspondent in Switzerland
Favourite player: **CLAUDIO SULSER**, Grasshoppers international striker in the 1980s, lethal with both feet, and a mesmerising dribbler.
Most memorable match: **AUSTRIA 7 SWITZERLAND 5** (1954 World Cup). Austria scored five goals in 10 minutes, after going 3-0 down to the host nation.

PENTTI HIETANEN, *World Soccer* correspondent in Scandinavia
Favourite player: **TORBJORN NILSSON** (IFK Gothenburg & Sweden). Hardly excelled abroad, but at home he was a real artist as well as a model sportsman.
Most memorable match: **BRAZIL 4 ITALY 1** (1970 World Cup Final). King Pele and his Brazilian wizards shot the feared Italian defensive machine to pieces.

JARI LITMANEN, Barcelona & Finland
Favourite player: **DIEGO MARADONA**. His unbelievable skills were a constant source of inspiration when I began.
Most memorable match: **HOLLAND 2 SOVIET UNION 0** (Euro 88 Final). The new breed of Dutch superstars led by Van Basten really caught my imagination.

ALBERTO DA SILVA, *World Soccer* correspondent in Portugal
Favourite player: **MARIO COLUNA**. The boss, the commander, the genius, the colossus of Lisbon.
Most memorable matches: **BENFICA 5 SPORTING LISBON 4** (1952 Portuguese Cup Final). The best Final we've ever had. **PORTUGAL 0 ENGLAND 10** (Lisbon, 1947). I saw the most exceptional bunch of forwards ever – Matthews, Mortensen, Lawton, Mannion, Finney. I am grateful to God that those men really did exist.

Battles of the River Plate

...and other famous encounters. Eric Weil traces South America's international history

THE first full international match in South America was played on July 20, 1902, in Montevideo, between Uruguay and Argentina, with the latter winning 6-0. It was the start of a long series of matches between the neighbours for several special cups in South American championships and World Cups.

The teams for this first encounter were full of English names – soccer was then still played almost entirely by the British communities – and drew between 7,000 and 8,000 spectators, an unusually large crowd in those days, including many who had crossed the River Plate from Argentina.

One player, Ernest Brown, was only 17. His exact age is unknown, so he may have been the youngest ever to represent Argentina – younger than Diego Maradona.

In 1914, Brazil won their first match away from home, beating Argentina 1-0 in Buenos Aires. By then the home team had all-Argentine names and one of their players annulled his own possible equaliser because he owned up to handling – which the referee had not noticed. Such sportsmanship was never seen again at international level.

Shortly after Uruguay won the Olympic title in 1924, Argentina beat them 2-1 in Buenos Aires, with Cesario Onzari scoring one of their goals straight from a corner. Because it was scored against the Olympic champions, this kind of goal has been called an 'Olympic goal' in South America ever since.

The first World Cup Final, played in Montevideo in 1930 between Uruguay and Argentina, sticks in Francisco Varallo's memory. He is the only surviving player from that game, and loves to talk about it.

Varallo, who still holds Boca Juniors' goalscoring record, was the youngest member of the Argentina team, barely 20, but should not have played in the Final. A leg injury had kept him out of the semi-final and on the morning of the game he was made to kick a ball hard against a wall to test his fitness. In his youthful enthusiasm to play he said he was OK, although he was not. As a result he was barely a passenger in the second half but this was only one of the reasons why Argentina lost 4-2 after leading 2-1 at half-time.

Before the match the teams could not agree on which ball to use, an Argentinian or a Uruguayan, which were different sizes. Finally it was decided to use one for the first half and the other for the second, and it seemed two fairly equally-matched teams played better with their own.

Then there were the 70,000 screaming fans in Centenario stadium (inaugurated just before the start of the tournament). The Argentinian players felt that they would never get out alive if they won. Varallo insists they were short of courage in the second half.

With the new stadium's concrete still not dried out, Argentina's captain used the dressing-room wall as a blackboard to draw some moves for the second half. The last time I was there, the drawing was still visible.

Club games also stand out. One was in 1931, the first professional meeting between Argentina's biggest and most popular clubs – Boca Juniors and River Plate – which was abandoned amid controversy. Varallo equalised from a penalty which was pushed out twice, but he scored at the third attempt. The River players complained that he had held the goalkeeper, and walked off in protest. The FA awarded the game to Boca, though Varallo admitted to me that he had grabbed the goalkeeper to stop him.

Uruguay's two top teams, Penarol and Nacional, played many memorable matches,

Final showdown...the 1978 World Cup Final between Argentina and Holland

MILLENNIUM MEMORIES

ZHENG MING, *World Soccer* correspondent in China
Favourite player: **JOHAN CRUYFF**. He could give you everything that you need from football.
Most memorable match: **ARGENTINA 3 HOLLAND 1** (1978). The first World Cup Final Chinese people watched on TV.

ROY KITSON, *World Soccer* correspondent in Northern Ireland
Favourite player: **PAT JENNINGS**. Big Pat was one of the finest goalkeepers in the world. A gentle giant, whose modesty and honesty as a player and a person make him an example to any youngster.
Most memorable game: **NORTHERN IRELAND 1 SCOTLAND 0** (Windsor Park, 1967). George Best's greatest game for Northern Ireland, he tortured the Scottish defence for the whole 90 minutes.

ALAN HANSEN, former Liverpool and Scotland defender, now TV pundit
Favourite player: **PELE**. He had everything – fantastic skill, pace and strength.
Most memorable match: **LIVERPOOL 3 MAN UTD 3** (January 1994). United went 3-0 up and Liverpool clawed back. The most amazing atmosphere I've ever known at a game.

JIM HOLDEN, *World Soccer* correspondent, Denmark
Favourite player: **MICHAEL LAUDRUP**. Talent, skill and attacking philosophy which summed up the Danish Dynamite team.
Most memorable match: **DENMARK 4 SOVIET UNION 2** (World Cup qualifier, 1985). Non-stop action and thrills, stupendous goals and adventurous football.

VAVA, World Cup winner 1958, 1962
Favourite player: **PELE**, my strike partner in the 1958 World Cup, followed by Di Stefano and Puskas. I saw some of the special things they did with Real Madrid when I was playing for Atletico.
Most memorable match: **BRAZIL 2 SOVIET UNION 0** (1958 World Cup). We had to win to get to the quarter-finals, and I came into the side and scored both goals.

Ticker-tape reception...fans in Buenos Aires

one of which – a title final in 1933 – also failed to finish. Penarol took the lead when a forward's shot hit a first-aid box next to the goal (where an injured player was being attended) and rebounded for another player to score. The referee allowed the goal and Nacional's players surrounded him in protest.

Two were sent off, but protests and fighting went on so long that nightfall came, and the match was replayed with a 0-0 score and Nacional with nine men. Finally, after drawing two more matches, Nacional won the fourth 3-2 to take the title in the longest-ever play-off.

In 1922 the longest South American Championship match took place, between Brazil and Uruguay. It lasted 150 minutes, including two 30-minute periods of extra time, before Brazil won 1-0.

I will never forget the final and decisive match of the 1950 World Cup, at the recently inaugurated Maracana stadium. This amazing game, played in front of 200,000 spectators, featured such stalwarts as Brazilians Ademir and Jair, and Uruguay's Maspoli, Andrade, Varela, Schiaffino and Ghiggia.

The Brazilians had thrashed Sweden 7-1 and Spain 6-1 in their previous games and needed only a draw to clinch the title. They were so sure of winning that the medals had been struck for them before the match.

When Brazil took the lead at the start of the second half, a linesman flagged for offside and the Uruguayan captain, Obdulio Varela, went, ball in hand, to protest.

The referee, Englishman George Reader, did not speak Spanish, an interpreter was called, the argument – via translation – was lengthy and all the time Varela did not let go of the ball. By the time the match restarted, Brazil had lost their rhythm, and the rest was history. Schiaffino equalised and Ghiggia scored the winner with 11 minutes to go.

'A 1962 game between Penarol and Santos lasted 3 hours 34 minutes'

The 1956 Brazil-Argentina match in Rio, to decide a friendly cup, has gone down in history even though it was left out of international statistics by Brazil. Because the Argentinians count the result, it makes them the only country with a favourable balance against Brazil – 32 wins to 31 in 84 matches.

Three years earlier, Argentina – believing themselves to be among the best in the world, although they did not participate in World Cups between 1934 and 1958 nor face European opposition – had been granted a visit from England, then still acknowledged as the masters of the game.

They played two games, the first billed as being between the respective leagues in which only England reserves on tour were included, and the second as a full international. The inter-league match was won 3-1 by Argentina, who fielded the complete Independiente five-man forward line.

The 'proper' game, also played at an overcrowded River Plate stadium, lasted only 21 minutes because rain turned the pitch into a mud patch. There was no score, but experts agreed England probably would have won.

The Libertadores Cup – the South American club championship – has produced many thrilling matches since its inception in 1960...and many unsavoury incidents.

One Final that sticks in the memory is that between Uruguay's Penarol and Brazil's Santos in 1962. Santos won 2-1 away, but then Penarol surprisingly also won their away leg, 3-2. This game lasted a world record 3 hours 34 minutes because of numerous interruptions, and finished early in the morning of the day after it started.

The match actually ended 3-3, because Santos scored just before the end – not a valid goal but one that the referee allowed, apparently to avoid further incidents for his own safety. But when his match report reached the confederation, it annulled the goal, forcing a replay which Santos won 3-2.

The 1967 Intercontinental Cup final was a big event, with European champions Celtic meeting the Libertadores Cup-holders, Racing Club of Argentina. Three hard games are remembered more for rough play, started by the South Americans, than skill.

Celtic won their home leg 1-0, Racing the return 2-1. In the play-off, held in Montevideo, the Argentinians won 1-0 and five were sent off. Racing's rough play and that of Estudiantes de La Plata in the next three finals (beating Manchester United in one) led to many European teams deciding not to take part and eventually caused the match to become a one-game affair on neutral ground in Japan.

The 1978 World Cup is remembered for the efforts by Argentina's military government to keep the trophy at home and to cover up the disappearance of so many 'enemies of the regime'. A bad-tempered Final in Buenos Aires went into extra time before Argentina beat Holland 3-1 amid the storm of little bits of paper thrown from the stands, which almost hid the remarkable final celebrations from view.

HASAN CEMALI, *World Soccer* correspondent in Turkey
Favourite player: **LEFTER KUCUKANDONYADIS**. The greatest free talent ever to grace Turkish soccer. He was an expert dribbler, and his speed tore apart the most disciplined defences.
Most memorable match: **SPAIN 2 TURKEY 2** (World Cup qualifying play-off, Rome 1954). Turkey had to win to qualify for the finals. The match ended all square after extra time, so a blind Italian boy drew lots – and Turkey's name came out.

JACK CHARLTON
Favourite player: Frank Swift, the former Manchester City goalkeeper, who was killed in the Munich air disaster while travelling as a reporter.
Most memorable match: I was a kid of 10 or 11 and went to a game between Newcastle and Spurs. I was standing behind the goal when Jackie Milburn took a shot. Ted Ditchburn dived full length, but the ball sailed past him into the net. I can still see that goal in my mind after all these years.

JUNIOR, ex-Brazil international
Favourite player: **ZICO** (right). I played alongside him for many years, and I saw him do so many special things.
Most memorable match: **BRAZIL 4 • ITALY 1** (1970 World Cup Final). Not just for the performance of Brazil, but also because of the Italians, who had come from a very tiring 4-3 extra-time win over West Germany in their semi-final. So many details of the game are stored in my head.

Still waiting for a wonder

Mark Gleeson on the major African players of the century

Major contribution...Liberia's George Weah

AFRICAN soccer is still waiting to come of age, but over the decades it has proved that it can no longer be ignored.

While the spectre of success for an African team on the World Cup stage remains but a frequent prognosis, the impact of the continent on the world game is undoubted.

And it has been a charismatic contribution, adding the flavours and flair of mysterious lands to the often-times staid appearance of the game. Africans have played in some of the best teams of the century and brought glory to the continent, even if they were in the colours of another country.

An example of this is the role played by Mario Coluna and Eusebio in the great Benfica side of the 1960s. Both came from the colony of Mozambique and went on to play for Portugal in the 1966 World Cup.

Coluna today is back in his native land while Eusebio remains the symbol of Portuguese footballing acumen, serving as an ambassador for the recently successful bid to host the European Championship in 2004.

Bruce Grobbelaar, born in South Africa and raised in neighbouring Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), won 13 medals as Liverpool goalkeeper, while Abedi Pele of Ghana was a European Cup winner with Marseille.

Now it is not that unusual to find an African presence in a major international final, from the Libertadores Cup to the Asian Champions Cup and to the widely-followed UEFA events.

That Africans are able to export their talent and make a name in the world game is a source of great pride, but also of sadness because they cannot win international honours with African clubs.

The first real African football star was Larbi Ben Barek, a Moroccan who played for France in the 1930s and 1940s and was known as 'The Black Pearl'.

Many others followed the same route from the colonies to France and Portugal, but Britain, surprisingly, remained devoid of a major African influence for decades despite its position as a major colonial power.

Immigration from Africa in later years has produced a brilliant crop of 'black pearls' who owe their loyalty to their adopted countries – for example, Basile Boli, Marcel Desailly, Patrick Vieira, who have all represented France, are African-born but European-raised.

But those who have been most responsible for establishing African soccer are the players who have captivated the imagination of European club football. Two footballers are owed a bigger debt of gratitude than any others: George Weah and the brilliant Abedi Pele.

Liberian Weah's charisma charmed France and Italy but also drew massive attention to the conditions of the African game.

Abedi was a more classy character but proved there is still no substitute for a player who has individual brilliance and can change the course of a match in a flash.

The consistency of these two has etched Africa into the mind of the footballing world and brought the continent's unique charm to the highest level. It remains a pity that there has not been an African team who could claim a share of the spotlight as Brazil, Real Madrid, Liverpool and Ajax have done this century. But it could still happen, for soccer talent remains one of this continent's great resources.

Benfica great...Mario Coluna (right)

MILLENNIUM MEMORIES

STANLEY MATTHEWS
Favourite player: **STAN MORTENSEN** (left). Morty was a great player, really quick and a fantastic goalscorer. He made my crosses look good at times and no player could ask for any more than that.
Most memorable match: Everyone calls that **1953 FA CUP FINAL** the 'Matthews Final', but that day belonged to Stan. He scored a hat-trick. I mean what more could you want in the biggest game of the year. It was the 'Morty Cup Final'.

MARK GLEESON, *World Soccer* correspondent in South Africa
Favourite player: **ABEDI PELE** (Ghana). His speed, his trickery, his body swerves and his shooting made him a player you could not keep your eyes off.
Most memorable match: **SOUTH AFRICA 1 CONGO 0** (World Cup qualifier, Johannesburg, 1997). The memory of the overwhelming noise of the last 20 minutes, when it was clear that South Africa would qualify for the World Cup finals, still gives me goose flesh. It was not a memorable game but the event was so important for the country where soccer had for so long taken a back seat to other sports, and was now finally coming of age.

MICHEL ZEN-RUFFINEN, general secretary of FIFA
Favourite player: **JEAN-PAUL BRIGGER**, Sion, Servette and Switzerland striker in the 80s, later coach of the national squad.
Most memorable match: **ITALY 4 WEST GERMANY 3** (1970 World Cup semi-final).

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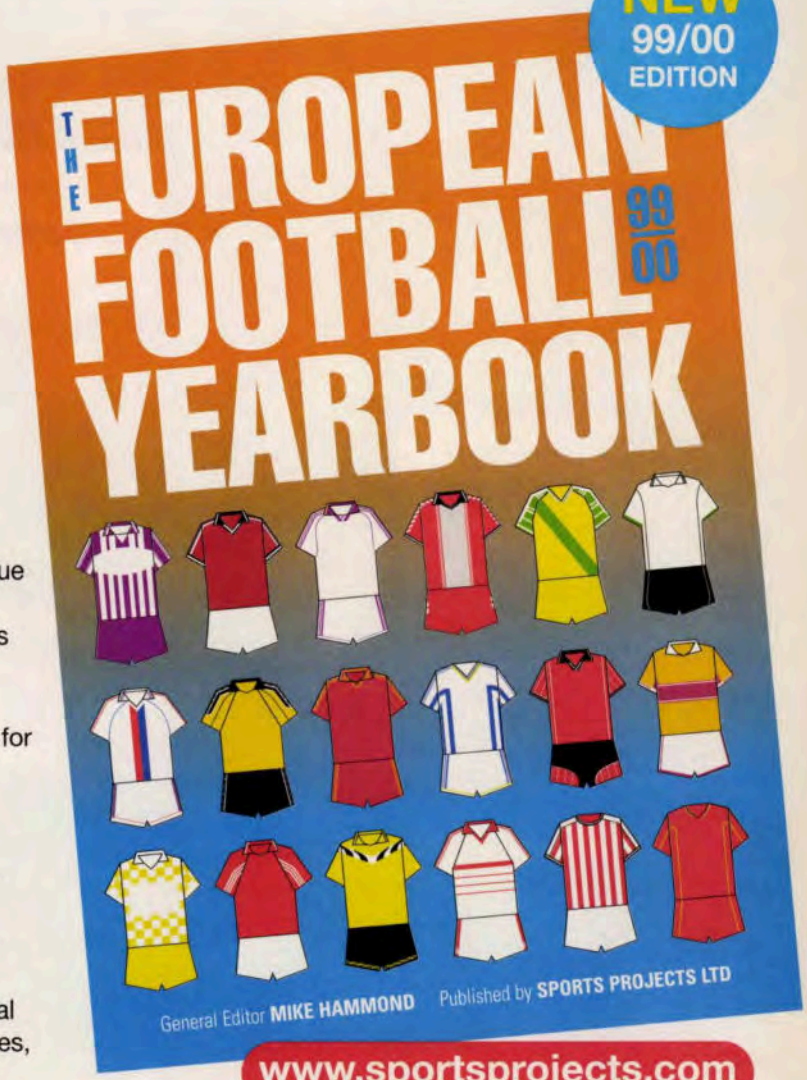

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People and places

World Soccer correspondents and colleagues remember their favourite players and most memorable matches

ALAN FAIRLEY

World Soccer *correspondent, Scotland.*

Favourite player:

I saw **ALAN ROUGH** make his debut as a teenager for Partick Thistle and followed his career as he made 53 appearances in goal for Scotland, most of them while playing part-time football for his club. He was often subjected to unnecessary criticism, mostly uninformed and unjustified but his legendary calmness helped him deal with the pressure on and off the field. He demonstrated what could be achieved by footballers who played for smaller, less fashionable clubs.

Most memorable match:

PARTICK THISTLE 4 CELTIC 1 (Scottish League Cup Final, 1972) A young Partick Thistle side, newly promoted from the old Second Division, stunned Scottish football by inflicting a 4-1 defeat on Celtic, a hybrid of the team who had won the European Cup four years earlier. Thistle withstood a second-half onslaught to win the club's first trophy for 50 years.

ANDREAS BAINGO

Ex-Union Berlin, now writer with daily Kurier, *Berlin.*

Favourite player:

WLODZIMIERZ LUBANSKI (Gornik & Poland). He always seemed able to score goals so easily!

Most memorable match:

ITALY 4 WEST GERMANY 3 (1970 World Cup semi-final). Tactics went out of the window in extra time and there was nothing but goals in a thrilling finish.

BILLY HAMILTON

42 caps for Northern Ireland between 1978 and 1986.

Favourite player:

GEORGE BEST. He was a one-off, a natural talent who couldn't be coached and who had the ability to mesmerise spectators and opponents.

Most memorable match:

SPAIN 0 NORTHERN IRELAND 1 (1982 World Cup). A match in which the Irish were virtual no-hopers, yet produced an inspired performance to defeat the host nation. Character, determination and skill gave them a famous victory.

MEL THOMAS

World Soccer *correspondent, Wales.*

Favourite player:

TERRY HENNESSEY (39 caps for Wales, 1962-73). One of the most underrated players of all time, and one of Europe's best in the late 60s.

Most memorable match:

HUNGARY 3 BRAZIL 1 (1966 World Cup). The all-round skills of the Hungarians, the grace of Albert, the vision of Bene, the class of Meszoly and Farkas.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

World Soccer *correspondent, Ukraine.*

Favourite player:

OLEG BLOKHIN (Kyiv Dynamo & Soviet Union). A living legend of Soviet football who has been recognised in the East and West.

World Cup shock...Spain 0 N. Ireland 1

Most memorable match:

WEST GERMANY v FRANCE (1982 World Cup semi-final). A hugely dramatic match, with the Platini generation being deprived of their chance to win France's first World Cup.

VICTOR GUSEV

World Soccer *correspondent, Russia.*

Favourite player:

IGOR CHISLENKO (Moscow Dynamo winger of the 1960s). Very fast and very skilful dribbler who scored a number of goals for the USSR national team in the World Cup finals of 1962 and 1966, as well as two goals against England in a 1967 friendly at Wembley. Chislenko was blamed for the USSR loss to West Germany in a 1966 World Cup semi-final (when he was sent off) and in the end did not get the merit he deserved. Died in poverty in 1994, aged 55.

Most memorable match:

ENGLAND 4 WEST GERMANY 2 (1966 World Cup Final). The first match of such calibre I watched on TV as a kid. No other World Cup Final since then has been more intriguing. The whole atmosphere of the tournament played in the Motherland of football was so important, too. As was the role of the Soviet linesman, Tofik Bakhramov.

NICHOLAS HARLING

World Soccer *correspondent, Belgium.*

Favourite player:

GEORGE BEST's name must be up there, alongside Di Stefano, Pele, Cruyff, Maradona and Ronaldo. Everything they could do he could do, only better. Who could forget his goal against Real Madrid in the 1968 European Cup semi-final at Old Trafford?

Most memorable match:

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 DUISBURG 0 (West German Cup Final, 1975). The year after West Germany won the 1974 World Cup, defeating Holland in a stupendous Final, two of their club sides contested an even more dramatic and spectacular match. With Grabowski and Holzenbein in their prime, Eintracht overcame the monsoon-like conditions in Hannover to win a fabulous game.

Italy 4 West Germany 3...1970 World Cup

The master...Pele with England's Bobby Moore

PAUL GARDNER

World Soccer *correspondent, United States.*

Favourite player:

PELE always had everyone wondering what his next move would be. He seemed capable of doing anything he wanted, with ease, with power, with elegance – breathtaking to watch, impossible to mark (sure, he'd survive in today's tight-marking game, he loved it, thrived on it), strong, brave, superb in the air, always super fit. Maybe there was something missing from his game. But what could it have been?

Most memorable match:

Probably – I say *probably!* – **BRAZIL v FRANCE** (Guadalajara, 1986 World Cup). Terrific skill from ALL the players, hardly a ball wasted, end-to-end, flowing soccer. You didn't dare blink for fear of missing something great. Marred only by having to end with the stupid shoot-out (which, incidentally, I still insist, was screwed up by the referee who awarded France a goal that should not have been allowed).

On TV: Argentina v Peru, World Cup qualifier, June 1985, in Buenos Aires, jammed River Plate stadium, already celebrating. But things nearly went badly wrong. Tremendous pace, and what tension – even on TV. Argentina were 2-1 down with 10 minutes left and on their way out, but went on to win the World Cup. Probably only the Peruvians remember how nearly Argentina went to missing the finals.

AZAM MAHMOOD

World Soccer *correspondent, Asia.*

Favourite player:

KUNISHIGE KAMAMOTO of Japan, who scored 71 goals in 153 full international matches. His seven goals helped Japan to win the football bronze medal in Mexico 1968, the highest-ever Olympic achievement by an Asian team.

Most memorable match:

NORTH KOREA 1 ITALY 0 (1966 World Cup). The regimented Koreans were worth their astonishing success against a flaccid Italy at Middlesbrough. A goal by Pak Doo Ik in the 41st minute created one of the stunning upsets in World Cup history.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

World Soccer *correspondent, Greece.*

Favourite player:

VASILIS HATZIPANAYIS, the left-footed attacking half-back star of Iraklis Thessaloniki during the 1980s – one of the best Greek players but also one of the most unlucky. He never appeared for the national team because he had appeared once in Russia's youth team and was ineligible to play for Greece.

Most memorable match:

AJAX 2 PANATHINAIKOS 0 (1971 European Cup Final, Wembley). This was the highest point a Greek team have reached in European competition. Under Mimis Domazos, perhaps the best Greek player of all time, Panathinaikos played well and received great respect.

Modern hero...Andrii Shevchenko

YURY VOINOV

Ex-USSR and Kyiv Dynamo, played in the 1958 World Cup.
Favourite player:
ANDRII SHEVCHENKO (Ukraine & Milan). This boy has accumulated all the best virtues developed by many generations of players.
Most memorable match:
BRAZIL 5 SWEDEN 2 (1958 World Cup Final). Seeing that Brazil team was like making a scientific discovery that cannot be repeated.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

World Soccer *correspondent, Malta.*
Favourite player:
CARMEL BUSUTTIL (Sliema Wanderers & Malta).
Most memorable match:
ENGLAND 4 W GERMANY 2 (1966 World Cup Final)

MOHAMED CHBARO

World Soccer *correspondent, Middle East.*
Favourite player:
MAJED ABDULLAH (Saudi Arabia). Winner of 142 caps, and twice guided the national side to victory in the Asian Cup (1984 in Singapore and 1988 in Qatar). Also helped his club to five League titles and two national cups. And he has never been sent off.
Most memorable match:
ENGLAND 4 WEST GERMANY 2 (1966 World Cup Final). By far the most memorable World Cup decider ever, a fine advert for all departments of the game.

MICHAEL CHURCH

World Soccer *correspondent, Asia.*
Favourite player:
ALI DAEI. As well as being something of a goalscoring machine, Ali Daei is the perfect ambassador for the Asian game, giving 100 per cent every time he pulls on a shirt. His humility and generosity off the field further endear the man to his adoring fans.
Most memorable match:
JAPAN 3 IRAN 2 (World Cup qualifying play-off, Malaysia, November 1997). This game had everything. The lead see-sawed as players and fans were caught up by the emotional intensity. Hidetoshi Nakata set up a goal late in sudden-death extra-time that proved a fitting climax to an amazing match.

SEAN CREEDON

World Soccer *correspondent, Republic of Ireland.*
Favourite player:
LIAM BRADY. There is something special about left-footed players, and Brady could do anything with his. He was always available for selection, on good days and bad days.
Most memorable match:
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 1 ENGLAND 0 (Stuttgart, Euro 88). A great win, one that made people all over the world sit up and realise that the Republic had 'arrived'. Ray Houghton scored after six minutes – and there was an agonising wait for the final whistle.

RAB CHRISTIE

World Soccer *correspondent, Iceland.*
Favourite player:
PETER PETURSSON. He played in Holland (Feyenoord), Belgium (Anderlecht, Antwerp) and Spain (Alicante) before returning to Iceland. One of football's 'characters' with an undisguised fondness for the high life, but he played for his country 41 times, and scored 11 goals for a weak team.
Most memorable match:
My heart says England 2 Scotland 3, Wembley, 1967, but for sheer skill **BRAZIL 4 ITALY 1** (1970 World Cup Final) has my vote.

EAMON DUNPHY

Ex-Republic of Ireland international, now a journalist.
Favourite player:
JOHN GILES, of Manchester United, Leeds, and others – including the Republic.

World Cup shock...North Korea 1 Italy 0

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Irish victory...Euro 88

Most memorable match:
ITALY 0 IRELAND 1 (New Jersey, 1990). A great result and a great occasion.

BERNARD O'BYRNE

Chief executive, FAI.
Favourite player:
PAUL McGRATH (Manchester United & Ireland).
Most memorable match:
REP. IRELAND 1 ENGLAND 0 (in Stuttgart, Euro 88). Transformed the perception of soccer for Irish people.

KLAAS-JAN DROPPERT

World Soccer *correspondent, Holland.*
Favourite player:
WIM SUURBIER. Not the most talented player Ajax ever produced, but Johan Cruyff and Rinus Michels would never have achieved three Champions Cup wins and reached a World Cup Final without him. Known for two things: practical jokes and his ferocious tackles.
Most memorable match:
HOLLAND 2 WEST GERMANY 1 (1988 European Championship semi-final). This was a long-awaited revenge victory for Holland's unfortunate defeat in the World Cup Final 14 years earlier.

TIM VICKERY

World Soccer *contributor; Brazil.*
Favourite player:
TONINHO CEREZO, Brazilian midfielder of the 70s and 80s, who won 74 caps for Brazil and starred for Roma and Sampdoria. One writer descibed him as looking like "two dwarves, one on top of the other, both trying to run in different directions". But he ran midfield with such intelligence. In the 18 months up to his knee injury in 1991 he was exceptional.
Most memorable match:
BRAZIL 1 ENGLAND 0 (1970 World Cup). As Brazil coach Zagallo said, it was a game for adults.

GERSON

Ex-Brazil international.
Favourite player:
ALFREDO DI STEFANO.
Most memorable match:
BRAZIL 4 ITALY 1 (1970 World Cup Final).

VLADIMIR NOVAK

World Soccer *correspondent, Yugoslavia.*
Favourite player:
FRANZ BECKENBAUER, one of the few who was great in defence, midfield and attack.
Most memorable match:
ITALY 4 WEST GERMANY 3 (1970 World Cup semi-final). That game had everything. Excellent skills, excitement, seven goals. Although I don't like boxing, the unforgettable extra time could be compared with a fight between equal opponents in the final round.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

World Soccer *correspondent, Poland.*
Favourite player:
WLODZIMIERZ LUBANSKI was a hero of my childhood. An excellent striker with great technical skills who led Poland to Olympic gold in 1972. What a pity that two years later he could not play in the World Cup finals because of a knee injury.
Most memorable match:
POLAND 1 ENGLAND 1 (Wembley, October 1973), which opened a new era in Polish football. Thanks to this result, described as 'a victory draw', Poland got to the World Cup finals and finished third in 1974.

MIKE LANGLEY

Veteran sports writer still producing after half a century.
Favourite player:
JOHN CHARLES. Incomparable.
Most memorable match:
FRANCE BEATING BRAZIL 4-3 ON PENALTIES, after a 1-1 draw, in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

GRZEGORZ LATO

Top scorer of the 1974 World Cup.
Favourite player:
I cannot tell you only one name. **GERARD CIESLIK** was the best player during the 1950s. **WLODZIMIERZ LUBANSKI** and **KAZIMIERZ DEYNA** were my heroes when Poland had the strongest team during the 1970s.

DAVID PROLE

World Soccer *contributor.*
Favourite player:
BILLY LIDDELL: 537 games and 229 goals for Liverpool.
Most memorable match:
EVERTON 0 LIVERPOOL 4, FA Cup fourth round, 1955. Liverpool had been relegated the previous year, had not won away for six months, had just lost 9-1 at Birmingham, and were 6-1 against in a two-horse race. What a massacre!

VALERY KARPUSHKIN

World Soccer *correspondent, Latvia.*
Favourite player:
ALEXANDER STARKOV, Daugava Riga striker of the 1980s, who scored more than 100 goals in the Soviet Union's top division, and is now coach of Skonto Riga.
Most memorable match:
ENGLAND 4 WEST GERMANY 2 (1966 World Cup Final).

SIGURD ODEGAARD

World Soccer *correspondent, Norway.*
Favourite player:
HALLVARD THORESEN Attacking midfielder who was Norway's first successful professional player abroad. Captained Norway for many years, winning 50 caps. Scored in the historic 2-1 win against England in 1981.
Most memorable match:
NORWAY 2 ENGLAND 0 (World Cup qualifier, 1993) The amazing breakthrough of Norwegian football in the 1990s started with the country's success in the qualification phase for the 1994 World Cup. The 2-0 victory against England in Oslo gave Norway the belief that qualification was possible, and the goals, scored by Bohinen and Leonhardsen, gave national manager Egil Olsen a tremendous triumph.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

World Soccer *correspondent, Brazil.*
Favourite player:
GARRINCHA. Hugely underrated outside Brazil, a brilliant and irreverent player with unique skill.
Most memorable match:
BRAZIL 2 ITALY 3 (1982 World Cup). Stunning football from one of the century's great teams, who let themselves down with suicidal defending. This was combined with high drama, with the semi-final place changing hands a total of five times as every goal was scored.

DRAGAN DZAJIC

Chairman of Red Star Belgrade, Yugoslavia's most capped player (85 caps, 23 goals).
Favourite player:
JOSIP SKOBLAR. It's not easy to pick among so many fine players, but I always liked Skoblar. He was attractive and very efficient, a great goalscorer.
Most memorable match:
RED STAR BELGRADE 4 UJPEST DOSZA 0 (1971 European Cup). After we lost the first leg in Budapest 2-0, more than 100,000 fans turned up at our stadium. We put on a brilliant performance, and should have played that season in the Final, against Ajax at Wembley.

Favourite Pole...Kazimierz Deyna

RICKY VILLA

Ex-Argentina & Tottenham Hotspur.

Favourite player:

OSSIE ARDILES. Whether he was the greatest player I have ever seen or not, Ossie was the best team-mate anyone could wish for. He was also my best friend when we came to Spurs in 1978. We were virtually the first foreigners to come to England and helped each other. Ossie was also a key man in Argentina's 1978 World Cup win.

Most memorable match:

Nobody will be surprised if I say the **1981 FA CUP FINAL** when my goal won it for Spurs against Manchester City. That competition is the most famous in world football and to have played such an important part in the 100th Final is something I will never forget.

Wembley wizard...Ricky Villa in 1981

COLIN JOSE

World Soccer *correspondent, Canada.*

Favourite player:

JOE KENNAWAY. A Canadian/American who, as Celtic's goalkeeper for nine years in the 1930s, was one of the best in the game.

Most memorable match:

UNITED STATES 1 ENGLAND 0 (World Cup, 1950). Because it showed that in this game you cannot take anything for granted.

CARLOS RAMIREZ

World Soccer *correspondent, Mexico.*

Favourite player:

LUIS FUENTE (1915-72), nicknamed *El Pirata* and a great playmaker who possessed natural technique which made him a great success with Atletico Corrales (Paraguay), Racing Santander (Spain) and Velez Sarsfield (Argentina). Luis Fuente played in the first division for 23 years and was hailed by the likes of Isidro Langara, Luis Regueiro and Jose Manuel Moreno as the best natural offensive playmakers in the history of football.

Most memorable match:

I would have to say two World Cup semi-finals: **ITALY 4 WEST GERMANY 3**, 1970 World Cup, and **HUNGARY 4 URUGUAY 2**, 1954 World Cup which ended the dominance of Uruguay in world football which stretched back 30 years.

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THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

WORLD SERVICE

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE MONTH'S STATS & FACTS

EUROPE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FIRST GROUP STAGE

4th matchday (October 19)

GROUP A

Kyiv Dynamo 4 (Kossovskyi 4, Shatskih 36, Holovko 61, Vaschuk 89)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kirsten 12, Neuville 49)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Mamedov, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin (Yashkin 59), Guerasimenko (Bialkevich 46), Kaladze, Kossovskyi, Husin, Rebrov, Shatskih.
Leverkusen: Matysek - Reeb, Nowotny, Zivkovic, Schneider, Ramelow, Emerson, Beinlich, Neuville, Kirsten, Hejduk (Robson Ponte 77).

Maribor Teatanic 0
Lazio 4 (Mihajlovic 36, Inzaghi 50, 74, Stankovic 63)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Maribor: Simeunovic - Vugdalic, Seslar (Dragusha 84), Zidan, Karic, Simundza (Pregelj 78), Balajic, Djuranovic, Galic, Bozgo (Filipovic 61), Sarkezi.
Lazio: Ballotta - Favalli, Sensini, Conceicao (Marcolin 75), Mihajlovic, Nesta (Fernando Couto 19), Simeone, Pancaro, Nedved (Gottardi 70), Stankovic, Inzaghi.

GROUP B

Arsenal 2 (Bergkamp 44, Overmars 85)
Barcelona 4 (Rivaldo pen 15, Luis Enrique 16, Figo 56, Cocu 70)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 73,091. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Arsenal: Seaman -Dixon, Keown (Upson 74), Adams, Winterburn, Parlour, Ljungberg (Suker 77), Vieira, Overmars, Bergkamp, Kanu (Henry 77).
Barcelona: Arnau - Reiziger, Abelardo, Bogarde, Sergi, Guardiola (Dehu 90), Luis Enrique (Gabri 71), Cocu, Figo, Kluivert (Zenden 90), Rivaldo.

Fiorentina 3 (Batistuta 5, Chiesa 36, Balbo 86)
AIK Stockholm 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Fiorentina: Toldo - Repka, Firicano, Pierini, Di Livio, Cois (Okon 71), Rui Costa, Heinrich, Chiesa (Balbo 82), Batistuta, Mijatovic (C Amoroso 53).
AIK: Asper - Kjolo, Ljung, Brundin, Gustafsson, Lagerlof (Corneliusson 58), Nordin, O Andersson, Tjernstrom, Matiasson (Johansson 82), Novakovic (Hoch 46).

GROUP C

Feyenoord 1 (Tomasson 76)
Boavista 1 (Timofte pen 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
Feyenoord: Dudek - Van Gobbel, Konterman, Paauwe (Somalia 70), De Visser, Bosvelt, Van Gastel, Tomasson, Kalou, Julio Cruz, Van Vossen (Samardzic 46).
Boavista: Ricardo - Paulo Sousa, Rui Bento, Pedro Emanuel, Timofte (Rogerio 90), Luis Manuel (Sergio 75), Emanuel, Litos, Jorge Couto, Jorge Silva, Ahinful Augustine (Martelinho 81).

Borussia Dortmund 0
Rosenborg 3 (Sorensen 17, 58, Winsnes 70)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Dortmund: Lehmann - Reuter, Worns (Bobic 46), Kohler, Dede, Evanilson (Kapetanovic 83), Ricken, Nerlinger (Addo 61), Reina, Barbarez, Moller. *Sent off: Ricken 68min.*
Rosenborg: Jamtfall - Strand, Bragstad, Hoftun, Bergdolmo, Winsnes, Skammelsrud, Berg, Sorensen, Carew, Jakobsen.

GROUP D

Marseille 1 (Gallas 69)
Manchester Utd 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 58,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Marseille: Porato - Perez, Gallas, Issa, Berizzo, Blondeau, Brando (De la Pena 64), Dalmat (Reina 88), Luccin, Pires, Ravanelli (Maurice 74).
Man Utd: Bosnich - Irwin, Berg (Solskjaer 83), Stam, P Neville, Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Giggs, Yorke, Cole.

Sturm Graz 1 (Kocijan 40)
Croatia Zagreb 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Hammer (Lux)
Sturm: Shicklgruber - Neukirchner, Mahlich, Schupp, Vastic, Korsos, Prilasnig, Martens (Strafner 89), Feldhofer, Schopp, Kocijan (Reinmayr 80).
Croatia: Ladic (Butina 12) - Juric, Prosinecki, Mujcin, Rukavina, Saric, Simic (Mikic 46), Tomas (Cvitanovic 46), Biscan, Jurcic, Sokota.

(October 20)

GROUP E

Molde 3 (Lund 54, 59, Berg Hestad 72)
Olympiakos 2 (Mavrogenidis 36, Zahovic 40)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,230. **Ref:** Wojcek (Pol)
Molde: Bakke - Dos Santos, Singsaas, Lydersen, Fostervold, Olsen, Fjortoft, Berg Hestad, Tessem, Lund, Hoseth (Mork 89).
Olympiakos: Eleftheropulos - Karataidis (Antzas 58), Amanatidis, Poursanidis, Giovanni, Djordjevic, Mavrogenidis, Passalis (Giannakopoulos 77), Karapialis (Ofori-Quaye 46), Zahovic, Anatolakis.

FC Porto 2 (Jardel 13, 35)
Real Madrid 1 (Peixe og 68)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
Porto: Vitor Baia - Secretario, Jorge Costa, Argel (Aloisio 74), Esquerdinha, Rubens Junior (Drulovic 36), Nuno Capucho (Paulinho Santos 72), Chainho, Peixe, Sousa, Jardel.
Madrid: Illgner - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Campo, Roberto Carlos, Geremi (Guti 66), Redondo, Anelka (Seedorf 47), Savio, Morientes, Raul.

GROUP F

Rangers 4 (Amoruso 19, Mols 39, 80, McCann 56)
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Van Nistelrooy pen 45)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 50,083. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Rangers: Klos - Porrini, Amoruso, Moore, Vidmar, B Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, McInnes, McCann (Albertz 71), Mols (Johannson 81), Wallace (Kanchelskis 88).
PSV: Kralj - Heintze, Faber, Nikiforov, Wielaert (Kolkka 32), Vogel, Van Bommel, Khokhlov, Stinga (Romerdahl 74), Nilis (Bruggink 86), Van Nistelrooy.

Valencia 1 (Ilie 11)
Bayern Munich 1 (Effenberg pen 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Valencia: Palop - Carboni, Pellegrino, Bjorklund (Djukic 20), Angulo, Kily Gonzalez (Oscar Garcia 85), Gerard Lopez, Albelda, Mendieta (Farinos 69), Claudio Lopez, Ilie.
Bayern: Kahn - Linke, Matthaus, Kuffour, Babbel, Lizarazu, Effenberg, Jeremies, Zickler (Salihamidzhic 75), Paulo Sergio (Santa Cruz 90), Elber (Jancker 81).

GROUP G

Moscow Spartak 1 (Tikhonov pen 55)
Bordeaux 2 (Micoud 21, Wiltord 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Spartak: Filimonov - Kovtun, Khlestov, Bushmanov, Parfyonov, Baranov (Kechinov 55), Bulatov, Titov, Tikhonov, Shirko, Bezrodny.
Bordeaux: Rame - Afanou, Bonnissel, Grenet, Martins (Rouviere 76), Pavon, Diabate, Alicarte, Micoud, Laslandes, Wiltord (Batlles 87).

Willem II 3 (Bombarda 1, Shoukov 6, Schenning 50)
Sparta Prague 4 (Novotny 17, Labant pen 54, pen 90, Baranek 62)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 14,500. **Ref:** Oguz Sarvan (Tur)
Willem II: Mampaey (Van Fessem 65) - Prommayon, Victoria, Jaliens, Hill, Landzaat, Galasek, Schenning, Ceesay, Bombarda (Valk 59), Shoukov (Sanou 77). *Sent off: Galasek 53min.*
Sparta: Postulka - Fukal, Novotny, Gabriel, Labant, Hasek, Baranek (Obajdin 86), Svoboda, Rosicky (Siegl 61), Sionko, Lokvenc (Jarosik 80).

GROUP H

Galatasaray 0
Chelsea 5 (Flo 32, 49, Zola 54, Wise 79, Ambrosetti 88)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Galatasaray: Mehmet - Popescu, Emre, Arif, Okan Buruk, Hakan Sukur (Saffet 65), Hagi (Hasan 46), Fatih (Umit 46), Turgay, Hakan Unsal, Capone.
Chelsea: De Goey - Babayaro, Leboeuf, Desailly, Deschamps (Wise 67), Poyet (Petrescu 67), Le Saux, Ferrer, Flo, Morris, Zola (Ambrosetti 76).

Hertha Berlin 1 (Wosz 41)
Milan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Spa)
Hertha: Kiraly - Van Burik, Sverrisson, Wosz, Daei (Aracic 70), Rekdal, Preetz, Dardai (Sanneh 87), Michalke, Deisler, Helmer.
Milan: Abbiati - Maldini, Albertini, Costacurta (Ayala 46), Shevchenko, Leonardo, Bierhoff, Ambrosini (Giunti 64), Guglielminpietro, Sala, Serginho (Orlandini 75).

5th matchday (October 26)

GROUP E

FC Porto 3 (Deco 1, 28, Jardel 58)
Molde 1 (Berg Hestad 82)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Porto: Vitor Baia - Secretario, Jorge Costa, Aloisio, Esquerdinha, Peixe, Chainho (Ricardo Souza 68), Deco (Alessandro Oliveira 29), Nuno Capucho, Jardel (Domingos 76), Drulovic.
Molde: Bakke - Dos Santos, Singsaas, Lydersen, Strand, Berg Hestad, Fjortoft, Olsen (Sundgot 84), Tessem (Lindbaek 61), Hoseth (Mork 86), Lund.

Real Madrid 3 (Raul 21, Morientes 64, Roberto Carlos 83)
Olympiakos 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Madrid: Bizarri - Geremi (Michel Salgado 62), Hierro (Campo 41), Julio Cesar, Roberto Carlos, Seedorf, Helguera, Redondo, Guti (McManaman 71), Raul, Morientes.
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Amponsah (Giannakopoulos 62), Anatolakis, Passalis, Karataidis, Amanatidis, Poursanidis, Djordjevic, Mavrogenidis (Niniadis 76), Zahovic.

GROUP F

PSV Eindhoven 2 (Van Nistelrooy 40, Nilis 57)
Bayern Munich 1 (Santa Cruz 51)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Durkin (Eng)
PSV: Waterreus - Faber, Dirkx, Addo, Heintze, Stinga, Van Bommel, Vogel, Kolkka (Iwan 88), Van Nistelrooy, Nilis (Bruggink 72).
Bayern: Wessels - Andersson, Matthaus, Linke, Babbel (Salihamidzic 68), Effenberg, Jeremies, Lizarazu - Paulo Sergio (Santa Cruz 26), Elber, Zickler (Jancker 75). *Sent off: Jeremies 90min.*

Rangers 1 (Moore 60)
Valencia 2 (Mendieta 35, Claudio Lopez 48)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,063. **Ref:** Benko (Aut)
Rangers: Klos - Porrini, Amoruso, Moore, Vidmar (Albertz 61), McInnes (Kanchelskis 38), B Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, McCann, Mols, Wallace (Johansson 75).
Valencia: Palop - Angulo, Djukic, Pellegrino, Carboni, Mendieta (Soria 80), Albelda, Gerard Lopez, Kily Gonzalez (Farinos 67), Claudio Lopez, Ilie (Juan Sanchez 61).

GROUP G

Bordeaux 0
Sparta Prague 0
Att: 22,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
Bordeaux: Rame - Jemmali, Alicarte, Saveljic, Bonnissel, Diabate (Batlles 66), Pavon, Rouviere, Martins (Micoud 76), Laslandes, Wiltord (Zanotti 90).
Sparta: Postulka - Hornak, Fukal, J Novotny, Gabriel, Labant, Baranek (Z Svoboda 89), M Hasek, Sionko, Lokvenc (Siegl 81), Rosicky (Jarosik 90).

Moscow Spartak 1 (Bezrodny 25)
Willem II 1 (Sanou 69)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Spartak: Filimonov - Kovtun, Khlestov, Bushmanov, Parfyonov, Baranov (Yevseyev 46), Bulatov (Kechinov 58), Titov, Tikhonov, Shirko, Bezrodny. *Sent off: Kovtun 89min.*
Willem II: Van Fessem - Prommayon, Hill, Gentile, Victoria, Van Nieuwstadt, Shoukov (Hermes 76), Landzaat (Valk 84), Schenning, Ceesay, Sanou (Schulp 86).

GROUP H

Hertha Berlin 1 (Rekdal pen 35)
Galatasaray 4 (Hakan Sukur 48, 66, Kerimoglu 81, Buruk 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 71,520. **Ref:** Nielsen (Den)
Hertha: Kiraly - Rekdal (Neuendorf 81), Van Burik, Helmer (H Herzog 14), Sverrisson, Deisler, A Schmidt, Wosz, Michalke, Preetz (Aracic 74), Daei.
Galatasaray: Taffarel - Fatih (Ergun 46), Capone, Popescu, Agmet, Okan, Suat, Emre, Hasan (Tugay 71), Hakan Sukur, Arif (Emrah 87).

Milan 1 (Bierhoff 74)
Chelsea 1 (Wise 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 74,855. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
Milan: Abbiati - Costacurta, Ayala, Maldini, Guglielminpietro, Gattuso, Ambrosini, Serginho (Orlandini 86), Leonardo (Boban 57), Bierhoff, Shevchenko.
Chelsea: De Goey - Ferrer, Leboeuf, Desailly, Petrescu (Morris 46), Deschamps, Wise, Babayaro, Poyet (Di Matteo 75), Zola (Ambrosetti 81), Flo.

(October 27)

GROUP A

Lazio 1 (Nedved 1)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Lazio: Marchegiani - Favalli, Mihajlovic, Pancaro, Fernando Couto, Nedved, Veron (Simeone 89), Sergio Conceicao (Stankovic 76), Almeyda, Boksic (Inzaghi 59), Salas.
Leverkusen: Matysek - Reeb (Hejduk 67), Nowotny, Zivkovic, Gresko (Happe 25), Ramelow, Emerson, Beinlich, Schneider, Kirsten (Mamic 88), Neuville.

Maribor Teatanic 1 (Balajic 50)
Kyiv Dynamo 2 (Rebrov 37, pen 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,500. **Ref:** Fernandez Marin (Spa)
Maribor: Gresak - Vugdalic, Cipi, Sarkezi (Filekovic 87), Zidan, Karic, Seslar, Djuranovic, Balajic (Bozgo 61), Filipovic (Pregelj 69), Simundza.
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Husin, Mamedov, Dmytrulin, Holovko, Vaschuk, Kaladze, Kossovskyi, Iachkin (Bialkevich 6), Rebrov, Shatskih.

GROUP B

Arsenal 0
Fiorentina 1 (Batistuta 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 73,236. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Arsenal: Seaman - Dixon (Suker 74), Keown, Adams, Winterburn, Parlour (Ljungberg 57), Vieira, Petit (Vivas 60), Overmars, Bergkamp, Kanu.
Fiorentina: Toldo - Repka, Pierini, Firicano, Heinrich, Di Livio, Cois (Adani 46), Rui Costa, Rossitto, Batistuta, Chiesa.

Barcelona 5 (Kluivert 15, 33, Zenden 43, Gabri 53, Dehu 56)
AIK Stockholm 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
Barcelona: Arnau - Puyol (Nano 46), Dehu, Abelardo (Reiziger 81), R De Boer, Litmanen (Mario Rosas 60), Xavi, Zenden, Kluivert, Simao.
AIK: Asper - Kjolo, Ljung, Brundin, Kamark, Corneliusson, Nordin (O Anderson 46), Gustafsson, Tjernstrom (Lagerlof 75), Novakovic, Hoch (Mattiasson 46).

GROUP C

Rosenborg 2 (Berg 61, Dahlum 66)
Boavista 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,167. **Ref:** Piraux (Bel)
Rosenborg: Jamtfall - Strand, Bragstad, Hoftun, Bergdolmo, Winsnes, Skammelsrud, Berg (Johnsen 89), Sorensen, Carew, Jakobsen (Dahlum 58).
Boavista: Pereira - Jorge Silva, Litos Magalhaes, Paulo Sousa, Pedro Emanuel, Rui Bento, Luis Manuel (Augustine Ahinful 71), Jorge Couto, Timofte, Nilton, Whelliton (Gilmar 84).

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Addo 45)
Feyenoord 1 (Van Vossen 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
Dortmund: Lehmann - Addo, Reuter, Kohler, Evanilson, Stevic, Nerlinger, Dede, Reina, Bobic (Barbarez 74), Moller.
Feyenoord: Dudek - Van Gobbel (Korneev 78), Konterman, Paauwe (Van Vossen 58), De Visser, Bosvelt, Tomasson, De Haan, Rzasa, Somalia (Cairo 58), Kalou.

GROUP D

Croatia Zagreb 1 (Prosinecki 90)
Manchester United 2 (Beckham 32, Keane 49)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Croatia: Butina - Tokic, Sedloski, Juric (Prosinecki 36), Mujcin, Rukavina, Mikic (Simic 54), Saric, Cvitanovic (Mumlek 69), Tomas, Sokota.
Man Utd: Bosnich - P Neville, Irwin, Berg, Stam, Beckham, Giggs, Keane, Scholes (Greening 68), Yorke (Solskjaer 59), Cole (Cruyff 79).

Sturm Graz 3 (Mahlich 18, Kocijan 61, 84)
Marseille 2 (Dugarry 53, 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,850. **Ref:** Ouzounov (Bul)
Sturm: Schicklgruber - Neukirchner, Feldhofer (Strafner 39), Prilasnig, Schopp (Reinmayr 81), Schupp, Mahlich, Martens, Minevand (Bardel 76), Vastic, Kocijan.
Marseille: Porato - Perez, Berizzo, Gallas, Blondeau, Pires, Issa (De la Pena 46; Dugarry 51), Luccin, Dalmat, Maurice (Reina 70), Ravanelli. *Sent off: Blondeau 68min.*

6th matchday (November 2)

GROUP A

Kyiv Dynamo 0
Lazio 1 (Mamedov og 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Durkin (Eng)
Kyiv: Shovkovskyi - Mamedov, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin, Kaladze, Kossovskyi, Husin, Fyodorov (Shatskih 46), Biakevich, Rebrov.
Lazio: Ballotta - Pancaro, Negro, Fernando Couto, Gottardi, Sensini, Simeone, Marcolin, Stankovic (Pinzi 64), Mancini, Inzaghi.

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Maribor Teatanic 0
Att: 22,500. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
Leverkusen: Matysek - Nowotny, Reeb (Brdaric 46), Zivkovic, Hejduk, Schneider (Hoffmann 76), Emerson, Ramelow, Beinlich, Reichenberger (Robson Ponte 46), Neuville.
Maribor: Gresak - Galic, Zidan, Sarkezi, Vugdalic, Karic, Djuranovic, Balajic (Dragusha 90), Seslar, Simundza (Bozgo 56), Filipovic (Filekovic 90).

GROUP B

Fiorentina 3 (Bressan 14, Balbo 56, 69)
Barcelona 3 (Figo 20, Rivaldo 43, 74)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Fiorentina: Toldo - Heinrich, Pierini, Firicano, Adani, Bressan, Di Livio, Rossitto (Amor 90), Rui Costa, Balbo, Chiesa (Okon 34).
Barcelona: Arnau - R De Boer (Puyol 46), Dehu, Bogarde, Zenden, Luis Enrique, Guardiola (Xavi 46), Cocu, Figo, Kluivert, Rivaldo.

AIK Stockholm 2 (A Andersson 41, 68)
Arsenal 3 (Overmars 17, 52, Suker 56)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 33,005. **Ref:** Strampe (Ger)
AIK: Asper (Baxter 72) - Kjolo, Lagerlof, Kamark, Gustavsson, Corneliusson (Aslund 72), Nordin, Ola Andersson, Tjernstrom, Novakovic, Andreas Andersson.
Arsenal: Manninger - Dixon, Luzhnyi (Vivas 78), Upson, Winterburn, Ljungberg, Viera, Petit (Malz 78), Overmars, Kanu, Suker (Hughes 78).

GROUP C

Boavista 1 (Pedro Emanuel 16)
Borussia Dortmund 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Boavista: Ricardo Pereira - Paulo Sousa, Sergio Carvalho, Pedro Emanuel, Luis Manuel (Carlos Alberto 90), Emanuel Braga, Litos Magalhaes, Douala (Ricardo 68), Jorge Silva, Nilton, Whelliton (Rogerio 62).
Dortmund: Lehmann - Worns (Barbarez 76), Stevic, Kohler, Reuter, Nerlinger (Herrlich 46), Reina (Evanilson 62), Dede, Ricken, Addo, Bobic.

Feyenoord 1 (Somalia 86)
Rosenborg 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
Feyenoord: Dudek - Van Gobbel, De Haan, Konterman, Rzasa, De Visser, Van Wonderen (Paauwe 72), Korneev (Somalia 75), Kalou, Tomasson, Samardzic (Van Vossen 89).
Rosenborg: Jamtfall - Strand, Bragstad, Hoftun, Bergdolmo, Sorensen, Wisnes, Skammelsrud, Berg, Jakobsen (Dahlum 62), Carew.

GROUP D

Manchester United 2 (Solskjaer 56, Keane 69)
Sturm Graz 1 (Vastic pen 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 53,745. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
Man Utd: Bosnich - G Neville, May, Berg, Irwin (Higginbotham 76, Wilson (P Neville 54), Greening (Cruyff 65), Keane, Giggs, Cole, Solskjaer.
Graz: Schicklgruber - Strafner, Neukirchner, Prilasnig, Schopp, Mahlich, Angibeaud (Bardel 71), Minavand, Martens (Reinmayr 71), Vastic, Kocijan (Bochtler 74).

Marseille 2 (Bakayoko 53, Diawara 89)
Croatia Zagreb 2 (Mujcin 42, Mikic 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Marseille: Porato - Perez, Berizzo, Brando, Belmadi, Montenegro (Dalmat 59), Diawara, Dugarry (Pires 66), Bakayoko (Ravanelli 78), Luccin, Reina.
Croatia: Butina - Tokic, Prosinecki (Jelicic 70), Mujcin (Mumlek 68), Rukavina, Saric, Simic, Cvitanovic, Tomas, Jurcic, Sokota (Mikic 62).

(November 3)

GROUP E

Molde 0
Real Madrid 1 (Karembeu 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,785. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Molde: Bakke - Singsaas, Lydersen, Fostervold (Dos Santos 46), Strande, Olsen, Fjortoft, Hestad, Tessem (Mork 87), Hoseth (Lindbaek 61), Lund.
Madrid: Bizarri - Salgado, Sanchis, Campo, Julio Cesar, Karanka, Helguera, Karembeu, Seedorf, Roberto Carlos, Aranda (Etoo 55).

Olympiakos 1 (Giannakopoulos 56)
FC Porto 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Kataitidis, Amanatidis (Karapialis 46), Giannakopoulos, Giovanni, Djordjevic, Mavrogenidis, Passalis, Ofori-Quaye (Gogic 46), Zahovic, Antzas (Amponsah 79).
Porto: Henrique Hilario - Rubens Junior, Aloisio, Secretario, Sousa (Miki 64), Drulovic, Rodolfo (Chainho 64), Alessandro, Paulinho Santos, Romeu (Duda 72), Ricardo Silva.

GROUP F

Valencia 1 (Claudio Lopez 70)
PSV Eindhoven 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Valencia: Palop - Angulo, Djukic, Pellegrino, Carboni, Farinos, Mendieta, Gerard Lopez, Kily Gonzalez, Claudio Lopez, Sanchez (Oscar Garcia 77).
PSV: Waterreus - Faber (Dirkx 59), Nikiforov, Addo, Heintze, Stinga, Van Bommel, Khokhlov, Kolkka, Van Nistelrooy, Nilis (Rommedahl 71).

Bayern Munich 1 (Strunz pen 33)
Rangers 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Bayern: Kahn - Babbel, Matthaus, Linke, Strunz, Fink, Effenberg (Tarnat 74), Lizarazu, Scholl (Salihamidzic 66), Elber, Santa Cruz (Paulo Sergio 66).
Rangers: Klos - Porrini, Amoruso, Moore, Numan (McCann 72), Reyna, B Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Albertz, Mols (Johansson 30), Wallace (Amato 80).

GROUP G

Willem II 0
Bordeaux 0
Att: 13,000. **Ref:** Rodoman (Yug)
Willem II: Van Fessem - Prommayon, Gentile, Schenning (Hill 90), Galasek, Jaliens, Victoria (Valk 87), Landzaat (Ramzi 76), Ceesay, Sanou, Shoukov.
Bordeaux: Richert - Jemmali, Afanou, Alicarte, Bonnissel, Batlles (Feindouno 68), Diabate, Martins (Grenet 83), Rouviere, Micoud, Wiltord.

Sparta Prague 5 (Lokvenc 1, 66, Rosicky 11, Fukal 49, Labant pen 63)
Moscow Spartak 2 (Bulatov 34, Bezrodniy 45)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 12,106. **Ref:** Piraux (Bel)
Sparta: Postulka - Gabriel, Novotny, Fukal, Labant, Hasek, Hornak, Obajdin (Jarosik 80), Rosicky (Svoboda 69), Lokvenc, Sionko (Siegl 85).
Spartak: Filimonov - Khlestov, Bushmanov, Ananko, Parfionov, Bulatov, Titov, Tikhonov, Bezrodny, Schirko (Meleschin 73), Robson (Baranov 53). *Sent off: Tikhonov 62min.*

GROUP H

Chelsea 2 (Deschamps 11, Ferrer 44)
Hertha Berlin 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 33,623. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Chelsea: De Goey - Ferrer, Hogh (Leboeuf 66), Desailly (Lambourde 86), Petrescu, Deschamps, Wise, Babayaro, Zola (Poyet 64), Flo, Sutton. *Sent off: Sutton 90min.*
Hertha: Kiraly - Rekdal, Van Burik, Sanneh, Sverrisson, Helmer (Schmidt 58), Deisler, Wosz (Konstantinidis 46), Michalke, Preetz (Aracic 46), Daei.

Galatasaray 3 (Capone 27, Hakan Sukur 87, Umit pen 90)
Milan 2 (Weah 20, Giunti 51)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Galatasaray: Taffarel - Popescu (Ergun 70), Emre, Arif (Marcio dos Santos 77), Okan Buruk, Hakan Sukur, Hagi (Hasan 66), Yildirim, Umit, Hakan Unsal, Capone.
Milan: Abbiati - Helveg, N'Gotty, Maldini, Albertini, Shevchenko, Gattuso, Weah (Boban 83), Ayala, Giunti (Bierhoff 88), Guglielminpietro (Serginho 57).

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	6	4	2	0	13	3	14
Kyiv Dynamo	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
Bayer Leverkusen	6	1	4	1	7	7	7
Maribor Teatanic	6	1	1	4	2	12	4

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	6	4	2	0	19	9	14
Fiorentina	6	2	3	1	9	7	9
Arsenal	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
AIK Stockholm	6	0	1	5	4	16	1

GROUP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
Feyenoord	6	1	5	0	7	6	8
Borussia Dortmund	6	1	3	2	7	9	6
Boavista	6	1	2	3	4	10	5

GROUP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	6	4	1	1	9	4	13
Marseille	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
Sturm Graz	6	2	0	4	5	12	6
Croatia Zagreb	6	1	2	3	7	7	5

GROUP E – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	6	4	1	1	15	7	13
FC Porto	6	4	0	2	9	6	12
Olympiakos	6	2	1	3	9	12	7
Molde	6	1	0	5	6	14	3

GROUP F – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	6	3	3	0	8	4	12
Bayern Munich	6	2	3	1	7	6	9
Rangers	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
PSV Eindhoven	6	1	1	4	5	10	4

GROUP G – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	6	3	3	0	14	6	12
Bordeaux	6	3	3	0	7	4	12
Moscow Spartak	6	1	2	3	9	12	5
Willem II	6	0	2	4	7	15	2

GROUP H – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	6	3	2	1	10	3	11
Hertha Berlin	6	2	2	2	7	10	8
Galatasaray	6	2	1	3	10	13	7
Milan	6	1	3	2	6	7	6

UEFA CUP

2nd rnd, 1st legs (Oct 21 unless stated)

Anderlecht 2 (Koller 19, 37)
Bologna 1 (Signori 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 17,098

Aris Salonika 2 (Andreoli 45, Kyzeridis 68)
Celta Vigo 2 (Karpin 40, 41)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 18,000 *(Oct 19)*

Atletico Madrid 1 (Baraja 84)
Amica Wronki 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Pauleta 17, Djalminha pen 50, Makaay 53)
Montpellier 1 (Delaye 6)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000 *(Oct 19)*

Grazer AK 2 (Lipa 57, Pamic 81)
Panathinaikos 1 (Sypniewski 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000

Hapoel Haifa 0
Ajax 3 (Machlas 3, Knopper 12, Laudrup 56)
HT: 0-2. **Att** 18,000

IFK Gothenburg 0
Roma 2 (Montella 37, 51)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000

Inter Bratislava 0
Nantes 3 (Sibierski pen 26, Da Rocha 34, Carriere 86)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 7,000

Leeds United 4 (Bowyer 27, 45, Smith 56, Kewell 83)
Lokomotiv Moscow 1 (Loskov 80)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 37,814

Lens 4 (Brunel 3, Nouma 17, Collen og 74, Blanchard 87)
Vitesse Arnhem 1 (Van Hooijdonk pen 72)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 38,000 *(Oct 28)*

Levski Sofia 1 (Yoffou 55)
Juventus 3 (Oliseh 24, Kovacevic 53, 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000
Sent off: Pazin (Levski) 78min, Bachini (Juventus) 16min.

Lyon 1 (S Blanc 63)
Celtic 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000

MTK Budapest 2 (Egressy 28, Eros 35)
AEK 1 (Ciric 62)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000

PAOK Salonika 1 (Frantzeskos 89)
Benfica 2 (Nuno Gomes 68, Ronaldo Guiaro 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,000

Parma 1 (Cannavaro 44)
Helsingborgs 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,530

Roda JC Kerkrade 0
Wolfsburg 0
Att: 8,000

Slavia Prague 3 (Ulich 20, 50, Kuchar 39)
Grasshopper 1 (Hakan Yakin 23)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 4,555
Sent off: De Napoli (Grasshopper) 84min.

Steaua Bucharest 2 (Rosu 41, S Ilie 58)
West Ham 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000

Teplice 1 (Verbir 67)
Mallorca 2 (Tristan 28, 32)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,850

Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Iversen pen 34)
Kaiserslautern 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,177. **Ref:** Orhan (Tur) *(Oct 28)*

Udinese 1 (Sosa 29)
Legia Warsaw 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000 *(Oct 19)*

Werder Bremen 0
Viking Stavanger 0
Att: 6,000

Widzew Lodz 1 (Wichniarek pen 5)
Monaco 1 (Giuly 40)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000

Zurich 1 (Castillo 68)
Newcastle United 2 (Maric 51, Shearer 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,600

2nd rnd, 2nd legs (Nov 2 unless stated)

AEK Athens 1 (Ciric 74)
MTK Budapest 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Bre (Fra) *(Nov 2)*
Agg 2-2. AEK on away goals
Sent off: Feher (MTK) 56min; Almay (MTK) 59min.

Ajax 0
Hapoel Haifa 1 (Rosso pen 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,765
Ajax 3-1 on agg
Sent off: Chivu (Ajax) 23min.

Amica Wronki 1 (Jackiewicz 33)
Atletico Madrid 4 (Hasselbaink 30, Capdevila 44, Baraja 51, Correa 82)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 11,000
Atletico 5-1 on agg

Benfica 1 (Kandaurov 25)
PAOK Salonica 2 (Marangos 28, Sabry 44)
HT: 1-2. **90min:** 1-2. **Att:** 30,000
Agg 3-3. Benfica 4-1 on pens

Bologna 3 (Eriberto 45, Ze Elias 49, Nervo 90)
Anderlecht 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 30,000 *(Nov 2)*
Bologna 4-2 on agg

Celta Vigo 2 (Djoroviv 65, Turdo 90)
Aris Salonika 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,500
Celta 4-2 on agg

Celtic 0
Lyon 1 (Vairelles 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 54,291
Lyon 2-0 on agg

Grasshopper 1 (Hakan Yakin 76)
Slavia Prague 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,300
Slavia Prague 3-2 on agg

Helsingborgs 1 (Stavrum 86)
Parma 3 (Di Vaio 11, 41, 43)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 7,500
Parma 4-1 on agg

Juventus 1 (Kovacevic 70)
Levski Sofia 1 (Atanassov 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000
Juventus 4-2 on agg

Kaiserslautern 2 (Buck 89, Carr og 90)
Tottenham 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 29,044
Kaiserslautern 2-1 on agg

Legia Warsaw 1 (Czereszewski 11)
Udinese 1 (Sosa 41)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,000
Udinese 2-1 on agg

Lokomotiv Moscow 0
Leeds 3 (Harte 16, Bridges 28, 45)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 15,000
Leeds 7-1 on agg

Mallorca 3 (Nadal 31, Stankovic 58, Nino 68)
Teplice 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,000
Mallorca 5-1 on agg

Monaco 2 (Lamouchi 50, Trezeguet 84)
Widzew Lodz 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,500 *(Nov 2)*
Monaco 3-1 on agg

Montpellier 0
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Makaay 45, Pauleta 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 24,000
La Coruna 5-1 on agg

Nantes 4 (Sibierski 48, Monterrubio 61, Devineau 73, Da Rocha 82)
Inter Bratislava 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,500
Nantes 7-0 on agg

Newcastle Utd 3 (Maric 33, Ferguson 58, Speed 61)
Zurich 1 (Jamarauli 17)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 34,502
Newcastle 5-2 on agg

Panathinaikos 1 (Pflipsen pen 90)
Grazer AK 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000
Agg 2-2. Panathinaikos on away goals

Roma 1 (Fabio Junior 88)
IFK Gothenburg 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,777
Roma 3-0 on agg

Viking Stavanger 2 (Berland 4, Dadason 78)
Werder Bremen 2 (Wiedener 43, Herzog 63)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,000
Agg 2-2. Bremen on away goals

Vitesse Arnhem 1 (Kreek 64)
Lens 1 (Blanchard 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000
Lens 5-2 on agg

West Ham Utd 0
Steaua Bucharest 0
Att: 28,000
Steaua 2-0 on agg

Wolfsburg 1 (Akonnor 87)
Roda JC 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 7,000 *(Nov 2)*
Wolfsburg 1-0 on agg

3rd round draw

Parma (Ita) v Sturm Graz (Aut)
Lyon (Fra) v Werder Bremen (Ger)
Panathinaikos (Gre) v Deportiva La Coruna (Spa)
Bologna (Ita) v Galatasaray (Tur)
Udinese (Ita) v Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)
Lens (Fra) v Kaiserlautern (Ger)
Moscow Spartak (Rus) v Leeds United (Eng)
Ajax (Hol) v Mallorca (Spa)
Rangers (Sco) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
Roma (Ita) v Newcastle United (Eng)
AEK Athens (Gre) v Monaco (Fra)
Celta Vigo (Spa) v Benfica (Por)
Olympiakos (Gre) v Juventus (Ita)
Wolfsburg (Ger) v Atletico Madrid (Spa)
Arsenal (Eng) v Nantes (Fra)
Slavia Prague (Cze) v Steaua Bucharest (Rom)
First legs to be played on November 25, second legs on December 9

AUSTRIA

Oct 15: FC Tirol 3 Lustenau 0.
Oct 16: Bregenz 0 Salzburg 0; Grazer AK 0 Linz ASK 1; SV Ried 2 Sturm Graz 0; Rapid Wien 2 Austria Wien 0.
Oct 22: Austria Wien 1 Sturm Graz 3.
Oct 23: Linz ASK 3 Bregenz 0; Lustenau 0 Rapid Wien 1; Salzburg 2 SV Ried 2.
Oct 24: Grazer AK 1 FC Tirol 1.
Oct 29: Rapid Wien 3 Linz ASK 0.
Oct 30: Sturm Graz 5 Lustenau 1; SV Ried 0 Austria Wien 0; Bregenz 0 Grazer AK 1.
Oct 31: FC Tirol 0 Salzburg 0.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	18	12	2	4	31	16	38
Rapid Wien	18	11	3	4	30	15	36
Sturm Graz	18	9	4	5	31	15	31
SV Ried	18	8	4	6	28	18	28
Austria Wien	18	8	4	6	24	21	28
Salzburg	18	6	6	6	15	16	24
Grazer AK	18	7	3	8	22	24	24
Linz ASK	18	5	3	10	20	28	18
Lustenau	18	4	2	12	14	33	14
Bregenz	18	3	3	12	11	40	12

BELGIUM

Wednesday, October 13

Beveren 1 (Smid pen 30)
Charleroi 1 (Brogno pen 59) Att: 2,500

Club Brugge 1 (Lembi 74)
Gent 3 (Arst 6, Nielsen 58, Gajser 78) Att: 16,000

Eendracht Aalst 2 (Grommen 41, D Cooreman 85)
Anderlecht 3 (Koller 3, Ekakia 79, Goor 83) Att: 9,000

Geel 1 (Curto 70)
Mouscron 4 (Lawaree 1, Vandooren 5, Tanghe 32, Wuyts 88) Att: 3,500

Germinal BA 1 (Degryse pen 15)
Harelbeke 0 Att: 7,000

Lierse 1 (Snoeckx 16)
Standard 0 Att: 9,000

Lokeren 0
Mechelen 2 (Caluwe 37, Elias 47) Att: 4,000

Lommel 0
Genk 1 (Segers og 28) Att: 12,000

St Truiden 2 (Fiers 31, pen 88)
Westerlo 1 (Pelic 69) Att: 5,500

Saturday, October 23

Charleroi 1 (Kaklamanos 60)
Lierse 1 (Snoeckx 10) Att: 9,000

Gent 4 (Joly 17, Schepens 44, Arst 68, pen 90)
St Truiden 2 (Fiers 11, Teppers 48) Att: 6,500

Mechelen 2 (Ribus 14, 63)
Germinal BA 0 Att: 8,700

Standard 4 (Mornar 28, 55, Dias 59, Bisconti 85)
Lommel 1 (Waligora 68) Att: 10,000

Westerlo 3 (Vonasek 5, Lammens 50, Thoelen 90)
Lokeren 3 (Porte pen 10, Van Geneugden 25, Boeka-Lisasi 48) Att: 6,000

Sunday, October 24

Anderlecht 4 (Zetterberg pen 42, Radzinski 66, 89, Koller 74)
Geel 0 Att: 21,663

Genk 1 (N'Sumbu 84)
Club Brugge 0 Att: 21,728

Harelbeke 1 (Wostijn 2)
Eendracht Aalst 1 (Van Hoyweghen 57) Att: 5,500

Mouscron 3 (Vandooren 55, Ma. Zewlakow 58, Teklak 72)
Beveren 0 Att: 8,100

Thursday, October 28

Anderlecht 2 (Ekakia 70, De Boeck 77)
Harelbeke 0 Att: 21,032

Saturday, October 30

Club Brugge 5 (Martens 10, Anic 15, Fadiga 44, Vermant 45, Janssen 85)
Standard 2 (Pierre 50, Luciano 55) Att: 16,000

Geel 1 (Zefilho 90)
Beveren 1 (Nuhiji 30) Att: 4,000

Germinal BA 3 (Sonck 15, Demkine 20, 40)
Westerlo 2 (Schaessens 2, Brogno 45) Att: 7,500

Lierse 1 (Van Meir 86)
Mouscron 0 Att: 8,200

Lokeren 0
Gent 4 (Joly 30, Szekeres 40, Carrez 80, Aarst 90) Att: 8,500

Lommel 1 (Grant 6)
Charleroi 1 (Alassane 75) Att: 3,500

St Truiden 0
Genk 5 (Vangronsveld 10, Jansson 25, Origi 30, 46, Olivieri 66) Att: 11,000

Sunday, October 31

Eendracht Aalst 2 (Meyssen 40, Van der Heyden 75)
Mechelen 0 Att: 5,800

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	10	8	2	0	30	14	26
Lierse	11	8	2	1	23	11	26
Gent	11	8	0	3	35	18	24
Genk	11	6	4	1	29	14	22
Germinal BA	11	6	2	3	21	17	20
Club Brugge	10	6	1	3	26	10	19
Mechelen	11	6	0	5	15	21	18
Eendracht Aalst	11	5	2	4	21	16	17
Charleroi	11	4	4	3	16	14	16
Westerlo	10	4	3	3	22	20	15
Mouscron	11	4	2	5	21	19	14
Standard	11	4	1	6	16	21	13
St Truiden	11	2	2	7	13	29	8
Harelbeke	11	1	4	6	10	18	7
Lokeren	11	1	4	6	12	23	7
Lommel	11	1	4	6	14	26	7
Geel	11	0	6	5	6	21	6
Beveren	10	0	3	7	10	28	3

BELGIAN CUP

Oct 16: Gent 3 Dessel Sport 1;
Genk 3 Tongeren 0;
Antwerp 4 Heusden-Zolder 0;
Lierse 6 Torhout 1;
Lommel 2 RWDM 1;
Ostende 0 Germinal BA 1;
Anderlecht 1 Ingelmunster 4 (aet);
Mechelen 2 Hekelgem 1 (aet);
St Truiden 1 Francs Borains 0 (aet);
La Louviere 0 Mouscron 0
(Mouscron on pens);
Geel 1 Bergen 1
(Bergen on pens).

Oct 17: Charleroi 2 Eendracht Aalst 6;
Lokeren 1 Club Brugge 0;
Standard 3 Harelbeke 2;
Waregem 1 Cercle Brugge 0;
Westerlo 3 Beveren 1.

BULGARIA

Oct 17: Velbazhd 1 Lev Sofia 3; Belasitsa 1 Spartak Varna 1; Lovech 2 Olympic-Beroe 0; Minjor 2 Shumen 0; Slavia 3 Pirin 1; Dobrudzha 1 Botev 0; CSKA 3 Chernomorets 0; Neftohimik 3 Lok Sofia 2.
Oct 23-24: Spartak Varna 2 Botev 1; Pirin 2 Dobrudzha 1; Chernomorets 1 Slavia 0; Lok Sofia 1 Velbazhd 1; Olympic-Beroe 0 Neftohimik 0; Shumen 0 CSKA 1; Belasitsa 1 Lovech 0; Lev Sofia 4 Minjor 1.
Oct 30: Lovech 4 Spartak Varna 1; Neftohimik 3 Belasitsa 0; Velbazhd 4 Olympic-Beroe 0; Minjor 0 Lok Sofia 1; Slavia 1 Shumen 0; Dobrudzha 0 Chernomorets 0; Botev 2 Pirin 1; CSKA 1 Lev Sofia 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	11	10	0	1	24	6	30
Lev Sofia	11	9	1	1	31	5	28
Velbazhd	11	7	1	3	18	10	22
Neftohimik	11	6	4	1	16	9	22
Lok Sofia	11	6	3	2	25	13	21
Lovech	11	6	1	4	16	8	19
Slavia	11	5	2	4	13	15	17
Spartak Varna	11	4	2	5	11	20	14
Belasitsa	11	4	2	5	10	19	14
Olympic-Beroe	11	4	1	6	12	17	13
Botev	11	4	0	7	15	19	12
Chernomorets	11	3	3	5	8	12	12
Pirin	11	3	1	7	10	21	10
Minjor	11	3	0	8	12	18	9
Shumen	11	2	0	9	5	18	6
Dobrudzha	11	1	1	9	5	21	4

CROATIA

Oct 12: Istra 3 Cibalia 0; Vukovar '91 0 Rijeka 0; Zagreb 4 Sibenik 1; Slaven 2 Varteks 1; Hrvatski drag 0 Hajduk 5; Osijek 1 Croatia 3.
Oct 15: Croatia 5 Hrvatski drag 0.
Oct 16: Cibalia 2 Hajduk 2; Istra 3 Vukovar '91 0; Sibenik 0 Slaven 0; Varteks 2 Osijek 0; Rijeka 2 Zagreb 0.
Oct 23: Hajduk 1 Croatia 1; Slaven 2 Rijeka 2; Zagreb 1 Istra 1; Vukovar '91 0 Cibalia 0; Osijek 3 Sibenik 0; Hrvatski drag 0 Varteks 1.
Oct 30: Hajduk 2 Varteks 0; Hrvatski drag 1 Sibenik 1; Slaven 1 Istra 1; Zagreb 1 Vukovar '91 0; Osijek 3 Rijeka 2.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	11	8	3	0	32	6	27
Hajduk	12	8	3	1	28	12	27
Osijek	12	7	1	4	23	19	22
Rijeka	12	5	3	4	21	13	18
Varteks	12	4	3	5	15	19	15
Slaven	12	3	6	3	13	17	15
Cibalia	11	3	5	3	14	13	14
Zagreb	12	3	5	4	14	16	14
Sibenik	12	1	7	4	8	17	10
Vukovar '91	12	2	4	6	12	22	10
Istra	12	2	3	7	14	23	9
Hrvatski drag	12	1	5	6	13	30	8

CZECH REP

Oct 15: Sparta 3 Kralove 1.
Oct 17: Zizkov 3 Olomouc 3; Dukla 1 Drnovice 1; Opava 0 Slavia 0; Jablonec 4 Chmel Blsany 2; Ceske Budejovice 2 Ostrava 2; Teplice 1 Liberec 0; Brno 1 Bohemians 1.
Oct 22: Ostrava 1 Brno 0.
Oct 23: Liberec 1 Sparta 2.
Oct 24: Bohemians 2 Dukla 0; Kralove 1 Ceske Budejovice 0; Olomouc 2 Opava 1; Drnovice 1 Zizkov 0.
Oct 25: Slavia 4 Jablonec 0; Chmel Blsany 0 Teplice 2.
Oct 29-Nov 1: Bohemians 0 Ostrava 0; Ceske Budejovice 0 Liberec 1; Jablonec 0 Olomouc 0; Brno 1 Kralove 2; Teplice 1 Slavia 1; Sparta 3 Chmel Blsany 1; Dukla 5 Zizkov 2; Opava 2 Drnovice 0.

CZECH REP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia	12	8	4	0	19	5	28
Sparta	12	8	3	1	29	11	27
Ceske Budejovice	12	6	2	4	17	15	20
Drnovice	12	6	2	4	13	11	20
Bohemians	12	4	6	2	11	7	18
Teplice	12	5	3	4	15	15	18
Ostrava	12	4	5	3	18	15	17
Liberec	12	3	6	3	10	10	15
Opava	12	3	4	5	16	14	13
Dukla	12	3	4	5	12	18	13
Jablonec	12	3	4	5	11	18	13
Olomouc	12	2	6	4	12	14	12
Brno	12	3	3	6	12	16	12
Kralove	12	3	3	6	12	17	12
Chmel Blsany	12	3	2	7	11	23	11
Zizkov	12	1	5	6	16	25	8

DENMARK

Oct 13: AGF 0 Brondby 2; FC Copenhagen 1 OB 1; AB 1 Esbjerg 2; AaB 4 Herfolge 0; Viborg 0 Lyngby 2; Silkeborg 2 Vejle 2.
Oct 17: Vejle 1 AGF 1; Brondby 4 Viborg 1; Lyngby 3 AaB 2; Esbjerg 2 FC Copenhagen 0; OB 0 Silkeborg 4.
Oct 18: Herfolge 1 AB 2.
Oct 24: AaB 3 Brondby 1; Viborg 1 AGF 1; FC Copenhagen 2 Herfolge 0; AB 2 Lyngby 2; OB 1 Vejle 1.
Oct 25: Silkeborg 2 Esbjerg 0.
Oct 31: Vejle 0 Viborg 2; Brondby 3 AB 0; Lyngby 0 FC Copenhagen 4; Herfolge 4 Silkeborg 1; Esbjerg 0 OB 2.
Nov 1: AGF 1 AaB 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	15	9	1	5	29	17	28
Herfolge	15	8	4	3	25	20	28
AaB	15	7	5	3	27	18	26
AB	15	7	5	3	24	16	26
Lyngby	15	7	2	6	25	22	23
Silkeborg	15	6	4	5	27	16	22
Viborg	15	6	4	5	20	21	22
FC Copenhagen	15	6	2	7	16	14	20
OB	15	3	7	5	14	21	16
AGF	15	2	6	7	13	23	12
Vejle	15	1	8	6	14	29	11
Esbjerg	15	3	2	10	11	28	11

ENGLAND

Saturday, October 16

Arsenal 4 (Dixon 40, Suker 54, 61, Kanu 90)
Everton 1 (Collins 16) Att: 39,042

Coventry 4 (Palmer 13, Williams 21, Keane 39, Hadji 90)
Newcastle 1 (Domi 81) Att: 23,031

Derby 0
Tottenham 1 (Armstrong 37) Att: 29,815

Leeds 2 (Smith 72, 78)
Sheffield Wed 0 Att: 39,437

Leicester 2 (Guppy 8, Cottee 39)
Southampton 1 (Pahars 84) Att: 19,556

Liverpool 1 (Thompson 47)
Chelsea 0 Att: 44,826

Man Utd 4 (Yorke 39, Cole 42, 50, Irwin pen 44)
Watford 1 (Johnson 68) Att: 55,188

Wimbledon 3 (Hartson 22, 36, Cort 75)
Bradford 2 (Mills 45, Windass 90) Att: 10,029

Sunday, October 17

Middlesbrough 2 (Deane 52, Armstrong 89)
West Ham 0 Att: 31,862

Monday, October 18

Sunderland 2 (Phillips pen 60, 82)
Aston Villa 1 (Dublin 46) Att: 41,045

Saturday, October 23

Aston Villa 1 (Dublin 35)
Wimbledon 1 (Earle 26) Att: 27,160

Bradford 3 (Blake 12, Mills 40, Redfearn 66)
Leicester 1 (Impey 21) Att: 17,655

Chelsea 2 (Flo 38, Petrescu 52)
Arsenal 3 (Kanu 75, 83, 90) Att: 34,958

Sheffield Wed 0
Coventry 0 Att: 23,296

Southampton 1 (Soltvedt 39)
Liverpool 1 (Camara 81) Att: 15,241

Tottenham 3 (Iversen 37, Scholes og 40, Carr 71)
Man Utd 1 (Giggs 23) Att: 36,072

Sunday, October 24

Everton 4 (Campbell 4, 28, Hutchison 37, Weir 90)
Leeds 4 (Bridges 13, 68, Kewell 34, Woodgate 72) Att: 37,355

Watford 1 (Smith 53)
Middlesbrough 3 (Williams og 2, Juninho 18, Ince 83) Att: 16,081

West Ham 1 (Sinclair 89)
Sunderland 1 (Phillips 23) Att: 26,022

Monday, October 25

Newcastle 2 (Eranio og 42, Shearer 52)
Derby 0 Att: 35,614

Wednesday, October 27

Liverpool 1 (Camara 43)
West Ham 0 Att: 44,012

Saturday, October 30

Arsenal 0
Newcastle 0 Att: 38,106

Derby 3 (Burton 7, Delap 80, 88)
Chelsea 1 (Leboeuf 10) Att: 28,614

Leeds 1 (Harte 57)
West Ham 0 Att: 40,190

Leicester 3 (Taggart 24, 36, Cottee 57)
Sheffield Wed 0 Att: 19,046

Man Utd 3 (Scholes 30, Cole 45, Keane 65)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 55,211

Middlesbrough 2 (Ziege 15, Deane 61)
Everton 1 (Campbell 4) Att: 33,916

Wimbledon 1 (Gayle 88)
Southampton 1 (Pahars 63) Att: 15,754

Sunday, October 31

Coventry 4 (Keane 17, Froggatt 33, Hadji 49, McAllister pen 62)
Watford 0 Att: 21,700

Sunderland 2 (Quinn 10, 21)
Tottenham 1 (Iversen 63) Att: 41,904

Monday, November 1

Liverpool 3 (Camara 21, Redknapp pen 42, Heggem 80)
Bradford 1 (Windass 12) Att: 40,483

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	13	9	2	2	26	16	29
Man Utd	13	8	3	2	31	19	27
Sunderland	13	8	3	2	23	11	27
Arsenal	13	8	2	3	20	12	26
Leicester	13	7	2	4	23	17	23
Liverpool	13	6	3	4	16	12	21
Middlesbrough	13	7	0	6	18	17	21
Tottenham	12	6	2	4	21	17	20
Chelsea	11	6	1	4	18	10	19
Everton	13	5	3	5	22	20	18
Aston Villa	13	5	3	5	13	15	18
West Ham	12	5	2	5	12	11	17
Coventry	13	4	4	5	20	15	16
Southampton	12	3	4	5	19	23	13
Wimbledon	13	2	7	4	19	27	13
Derby	13	3	3	7	13	22	12
Newcastle	13	3	2	8	23	27	11
Bradford	12	3	2	7	10	20	11
Watford	13	3	0	10	8	22	9
Sheffield Wed	13	1	2	10	8	30	5

FRANCE

Tuesday, October 12

Lyon 2 (Anderson 50, 90)
Nantes 0 Att: 35,729

Paris SG 0
Marseille 2 (Ravanelli 73, Maurice 82) Att: 44,784

Wednesday, October 13

Bastia 2 (Nee 67, Prince 88)
Lens 0 Att: 5,000

Bordeaux 3 (Laslandes 18, 29, Wiltord 75)
Monaco 2 (Simone 27, 86) Att: 31,453

Metz 2 (Padovano 42, Jestrovic 54)
Nancy 2 (Lefevre 7, Mouret 68) Att: 24,402

Montpellier 0
Saint-Etienne 1 (Alex 66) Att: 16,032

Rennes 5 (M N'Diaye 8, Bardon 14, Fernandes 52, Nonda 76, Le Roux 79)
Sedan 0 Att: 11,212

Strasbourg 1 (Echouafni 16)
Auxerre 3 (Cichielski 2, Guivarc'h 7, Marlet 32) Att: 18,605

Troyes 3 (Ghazi 15, Arpinon 40, Jbari 90)
Le Havre 1 (Deniaud 65)

Friday, October 15

Auxerre 3 (Marlet 4, Guivarc'h 7, Tainio 90)
Bastia 1 (Soumah 78) Att: 8,000

Le Havre 0
Rennes 1 (Deloumeaux og 90) Att: 10,448

Lens 1 (Bogaczyk 60)
Montpellier 0 Att: 35,952

Marseille 0
Lyon 1 (Anderson 36) Att: 52,892

Monaco 3 (Simone 28, 72, Lamouchi 90)
Strasbourg 0 Att: 6,000

Nancy 1 (Wiart 39)
Paris SG 1 (Madar 81) Att: 11,100

Nantes 0
Bordeaux 1 (Micoud 21) Att: 28,904

Saint-Etienne 1 (Alex 70)
Troyes 0 Att: 23,023

Sedan 0
Metz 2 (Gousse 40, Jestrovic 80) Att: 13,383

Saturday, October 23

Bordeaux 2 (Laslandes 23, 86)
Marseille 1 (De la Pena 21) Att: 32,000

Rennes 4 (Nonda 21, 52, Gregoire 72, Diatta 85)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Pedron 24) Att: 14,907

Sunday, October 24

Lyon 2 (Anderson 33, Blanc 59)
Nancy 1 (Rodriguez 21) Att: 30,679

Metz 3 (Asuar 4, Padovano pen 54, Boffin 88)
Le Havre 0 Att: 19,107

Montpellier 1 (Fugier 4)
Bastia 1 (Prince 11) Att: 9,335

Paris SG 3 (Madar 12, Christian 34, L Robert 78)
Sedan 2 (N'Diefi 19, Deblock 46) Att: 43,796

Strasbourg 3 (Belloso 8, Echouafni 56, Garay 68)
Nantes 2 (Gillet 19, Da Rocha 52) Att: 13,647

Troyes 0
Lens 1 (Nouma 84) Att: 13,495

Friday, October 29

Nantes 0
Monaco 3 (Simone 10, Trezeguet 63, Giuly 87) Att: 28,998

Sedan 2 (N'Diefi 22, Deblock 90)
Lyon 0 Att: 13,319

Saturday, October 30

Auxerre 2 (Marlet 23, Guivarc'h 54)
Montpellier 1 (Loko 82) Att: 11,629

Bastia 5 (Lachuer 12, Jurietti 31, Andre 63, Prince 69, Mendy 84)
Troyes 0 Att: 5,000

Le Havre 3 (Lesage 34, 50, Beuzelin 67)
Paris SG 1 (Christian 86) Att: 13,329

Marseille 4 (Pires 3, Maurice 20, Ravanelli 49, Bakayoko 83)
Strasbourg 1 (Garay 90) Att: 48,000

Nancy 2 (Mouret 2, Wiart 56)
Bordeaux 2 (Wiltord 45, Sanchez 76) Att: 10,310

Saint-Etienne 2 (Alex 45, Subiat 70)
Metz 0 Att: 30,555

Sunday, October 31

Lens 1 (Nouma 54)
Rennes 1 (Nonda 28) Att: 38,968

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Auxerre	12	8	2	2	21	14	26
Lyon	13	7	3	3	15	10	24
Monaco	12	7	2	3	27	12	23
Bordeaux	13	6	4	3	23	18	22
Paris SG	13	6	3	4	19	17	21
Marseille	13	5	5	3	19	13	20
Saint-Etienne	13	5	4	4	21	21	19
Sedan	13	6	1	6	20	23	19
Metz	13	4	6	3	16	11	18
Rennes	13	5	3	5	20	19	18
Bastia	13	4	5	4	20	18	17
Strasbourg	13	4	4	5	14	21	16
Lens	13	4	3	6	9	15	15
Nancy	13	3	4	6	19	20	13
Le Havre	13	3	4	6	14	21	13
Montpellier	13	3	3	7	15	21	12
Nantes	13	4	0	9	13	19	12
Troyes	13	4	0	9	10	22	12

GERMANY

Friday, October 15

Arminia Bielefeld 0
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Reina 72, Ricken 87) Att: 26,601

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Zivkovic 12, Kirsten 14, 18, Ponte 67)
Ulm 1 (Stadler 90) Att: 22,500

Saturday, October 16

Bayern Munich 3 (Elber 4, Paulo Sergio 14, 61)
Hertha 1 (Wosz 82) Att: 63,000

Duisburg 2 (Kovacevic pen 62, Beierle 90)
Kaiserslautern 2 (Komljenovic 16, Marschall 23)
Att: 14,737

Hamburg 2 (Butt pen 22, Panadic 74)
Freiburg 0 Att: 38,529

Hansa Rostock 3 (Brand 35, Holetschek 66, Lange pen 86)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Fjortoft 77) Att: 15,000

Werder Bremen 1 (Herzog pen 73)
1860 Munich 3 (Tapalovic 9, Winkler 60, Borimirov 90) Att: 29,936

Sunday, October 17

Stuttgart 0
Schalke 2 (Oude Kamphuis 70, Sand 85) Att: 35,000

Unterhaching 1 (Straube 50)
Wolfsburg 1 (Akpoborie 71) Att: 8,600

Friday, October 22

Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Schalke 2 (Wilmots pen 52, Asamoah 83) Att: 34,000

Hansa Rostock 2 (Arvidsson 20, 68)
Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Meissner 81) Att: 15,500

Saturday, October 23

Freiburg 0
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 25,000

Hertha 1 (Wosz 29)
Stuttgart 1 (Carnell 81) Att: 40,219

Kaiserslautern 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Santa Cruz 52, Elber 84) Att: 41,500

1860 Munich 0
Hamburg 0 Att: 32,300

Ulm 1 (Otto 35)
Unterhaching 0 Att: 20,000

Sunday, October 24

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ricken 57)
Werder Bremen 3 (Herzog 4, Bode 42, Pizarro 80) Att: 68,600

Wolfsburg 1 (Akpoborie 49)
Duisburg 0 Att: 15,184

Friday, October 29

Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Bagheri 65)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Guie-Mien 90) Att: 20,000

Werder Bremen 2 (Pizarro 4, Ailton 85)
Hansa Rostock 1 (Wibran pen 74) Att: 29,467

Saturday, October 30

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten pen 63)
1860 Munich 1 (Winkler 90) Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 5 (Elber 11, 26, 78, Santa Cruz 15, Weisinger 89)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 47,000

Duisburg 0
Ulm 0 Att: 13,400

Hamburg 1 (Butt pen 61)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Bobic 69) Att: 52,000

Schalke 1 (Eigenrauch 42)
Hertha 1 (Sanneh 3) Att: 51,200

Sunday, October 31

Stuttgart 0
Kaiserslautern 1 (Hristov 25) Att: 30,000

Unterhaching 1 (Rraklli pen 80)
Freiburg 0 Att: 10,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	10	6	2	2	18	9	20
B Dortmund	10	6	2	2	15	7	20
Hamburg	10	5	4	1	20	10	19
Leverkusen	10	5	4	1	16	9	19
Schalke	10	4	4	2	13	10	16
Werder Bremen	10	4	3	3	22	13	15
1860 Munich	10	4	3	3	16	11	15
Wolfsburg	10	4	3	3	14	19	15
Kaiserslautern	10	4	1	5	13	20	13
Hansa Rostock	10	4	1	5	14	22	13
Freiburg	10	3	3	4	15	11	12
Hertha	10	2	6	2	14	16	12
Unterhaching	10	3	2	5	9	12	11
Stuttgart	10	3	2	5	8	13	11
Arminia Bielefeld	10	2	4	4	8	15	10
Ulm	10	2	3	5	10	16	9
Eintracht	10	2	2	6	11	16	8
Duisburg	10	0	5	5	9	16	5

GERMAN CUP – 3RD RND

Oct 12: Hannover 96 1 Arminia Bielefeld 2; St Pauli 0 Ulm 2; Greuther Furth 1 Hansa Rostock 3; Stuttgart Kickers 3 Borussia Dortmund 1; Koln 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 1; Werder Bremen 2 Kaiserslautern 2 (aet) *Werder Bremen on pens*; Babelsberg 2 Freiburg 4 (aet); Waldhof Mannheim 3 Bayer Leverkusen 2 (aet).
Oct 13: Meppen 1 Bayern Munich 4; FSV Mainz 2 Hamburg 0; Eintracht Trier 2 1860 Munich 1; Werder Bremen (amateurs) 0 Stuttgart 1; Chemnitzer 2 Wolfsburg 3; Tennis Borussia 2 Hertha 3 (aet); Bochum 1 Duisburg 1 (aet) *Bochum on pens*; Energie Cottbus 2 Schalke 2 (aet) *Energie Cottbus on pens.*

GREECE

Oct 17: Kavala 0 Olympiakos 5; Panathinaikos 5 Kalamata 0; Aris 5 Panionios 1; PAOK 2 Ethnikos A 0; Trikala 1 Paniliakos 1; Ionikos 1 Apollon 0; OFI 4 Proodeftiki 3; Xanthi 1 Panahaiki 0.
Oct 18: AEK 3 Iraklis 2.
Oct 23: Olympiakos 3 Trikala 1.
Oct 24: Iraklis 3 PAOK 1; Apollon 3 Aris 3; Panionios 1 OFI 4; Kalamata 1 Panahaiki 1; Proodeftiki 0 Xanthi 0; Kavala 0 Ionikos 0.
Oct 25: Ethnikos A 1 Panathinaikos 2; Paniliakos 0 AEK 1.
Oct 30: Panahaiki 2 Proodeftiki 0.
Oct 31: PAOK 0 Paniliakos 1; Ethnikos A 2 Kalamata 0; Xanthi 5 Panionios 0; Trikala 2 Ionikos 2; Aris 1 Kavala 0; Panathinaikos 3 Iraklis 0.
Nov 1: OFI 1 Apollon 0.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	6	5	1	0	15	3	16
Olympiakos	5	5	0	0	17	1	15
Aris	6	4	2	0	12	4	14
OFI	6	4	1	1	12	8	13
Paniliakos	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
AEK	5	3	1	1	12	9	10
Xanthi	6	2	3	1	7	2	9
Ionikos	6	2	3	1	6	5	9
Iraklis	6	3	0	3	11	11	9
Ethnikos A	6	3	0	3	7	8	9
PAOK	6	2	2	2	12	11	8
Panahaiki	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
Kavala	6	1	1	4	3	10	4
Kalamata	6	0	3	3	3	12	3
Panionios	6	1	0	5	5	21	3
Apollon	6	0	2	4	3	7	2
Trikala	6	0	2	4	6	14	2
Proodeftiki	6	0	1	5	3	12	1

HOLLAND

Sunday, October 10

De Graafschap 2 (Viscaal 54, Issah 80)
MVV 1 (Perez 21) Att: 8,550

Monday, October 11

Sparta 1 (Zijm 60)
Roda JC 2 (Peeters 23, Luypers 43) Att: 5,566

Tuesday, October 12

Cambuur 0
Willem II 1 (Bombarda 34) Att: 7,450

Feyenoord 0
Vitesse 0 Att: 31,900

Wednesday, October 13

Ajax 4 (Wamberto 30, Knopper 33, Laudrup 50, 86)
Fortuna 1 (Hamming 12) Att: 44,350

Den Bosch 2 (Michels pen 17, Scholten 27)
AZ 3 (Bosman 10, Van Galen 24, 45) Att: 4,123

Heerenveen 1 (Denneboom 81)
Utrecht 0 Att: 13,870

NEC 0
Twente 1 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 44) Att: 9,000

RKC 1 (Hoogendorp 68)
PSV 6 (Nilis 2, 44, 79, Van Nistelrooy 35, 46, Kolkka 84) Att: 6,100

Friday, October 15

Roda JC 2 (Zafarin 44, Doomernik 57)
Feyenoord 1 (Tomasson 2) Att: 8,500

Saturday, October 16

Fortuna 0
Heerenveen 1 (Radomski 55) Att: 6,700

MVV 4 (Emerson 20, Taiwo 27, Emerson 69, 72)
Utrecht 1 (Martel 81) Att: 5,800

Vitesse 1 (De Marchi 39)
Cambuur 0 Att: 24,000

Willem II 2 (Landzaat 30, Bombarda 32)
RKC 1 (Schops 47) Att: 14,500

Sunday, October 17

De Graafschap 0
Twente 0 Att: 8,550

NEC 1 (Renfurm 52)
Ajax 3 (O'Brien 33, Machlas pen 55, Knopper 72) Att: 9,000

PSV 7 (Van Nistelrooy 12, pen 15, Nilis 42, 45, Bruggink 48, 61, Van der Doelen 74)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 28,000

Sparta 3 (Inia 11, 20, Nielsen 45)
AZ 6 (Buskermolen 37, Van Galen 45, Bosman 45, Van der Weert 49, Opdam 53, Zijm 71) Att: 6,236

Friday, October 22

AZ 0
Heerenveen 1 (Denneboom 62) Att: 7,150

Saturday, October 23

Cambuur 1 (Scharrenburg 21)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 8,000

Fortuna 3 (Kiekens 16, Hamming 38, Volmer 64)
Sparta 2 (Elkhattabi 32, 34) Att: 8,000

PSV 2 (Van Nistelrooy 30, Kolkka 68)
Twente 2 (Booth 85, 87) Att: 28,000

Willem II 1 (Sanou 76)
MVV 0 Att: 14,000

Sunday, October 24

Ajax 6 (Machlas 29, 49, pen 87, Laudrup 31, Knopper 58, Witschge 90)
Den Bosch 1 (Michels 33) Att: 41,234

Feyenoord 2 (Konterman 45, Bosvelt 65)
NEC 1 (Renfurm 62) Att: 29,500

Roda JC 0
Vitesse 1 (Van Hooijdonk 80) Att: 7,500

Utrecht 4 (Van der Gaag 23, John de Jong 39, pen 77, Zwaanswijk 72)
RKC 1 (Lanckohr 83) Att: 13,800

Wednesday, October 27

Heerenveen 2 (Jensen 11, Pahlplatz 15)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 13,450

RKC 4 (Hoogendorp 13, pen 56, Van Wanrooy 49, De Graef 71)
NEC 2 (P Van Putten 1, Renfurm 39) Att: 4,100

Twente 3 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 9, 71, Peiremans 24)
Sparta 2 (Elkhattabi 29, Mghizrat 57) Att: 12,011

Friday, October 29

Ajax 1 (Winter 75)
Roda JC 2 (Peeters 77, Luijpers 90) Att: 44,000

Saturday, October 30

Den Bosch 1 (Jones 9)
Cambuur 1 (De Waard 33) Att: 4,000

Sunday, October 31

AZ 0
PSV 3 (Van Nistelrooy 21, 48, Bruggink 80) Att: 7,300

MVV 1 (Caers 90)
Fortuna 0 Att: 7,022

Vitesse 3 (De Marchi 44, Van Hooijdonk 73, 90)
Utrecht 1 (Lucius 72) Att: 24,500

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	10	9	1	0	45	8	28
Ajax	11	8	2	1	38	16	26
Willem II	10	7	1	2	21	19	22
Heerenveen	11	7	1	3	18	12	22
Roda JC	11	7	1	3	18	13	22
Vitesse	11	6	3	2	21	15	21
Twente	11	5	5	1	17	11	20
Feyenoord	10	5	3	2	18	8	18
RKC	11	5	2	4	18	21	17
AZ	11	5	1	5	19	19	16
Utrecht	11	5	0	6	14	18	15
Sparta	11	3	0	8	18	29	9
MVV	11	2	2	7	14	28	8
De Graafschap	11	1	4	6	9	15	7
Fortuna	11	2	1	8	12	21	7
Cambuur	11	1	3	7	8	23	6
Den Bosch	11	1	3	7	12	32	6
NEC	10	1	1	8	14	26	4

HUNGARY

Oct 15: Kispest-Honved 2 Diosgyor 0.
Oct 16: Ferencvaros 0 Debrecen 1; Szeged 2 Nyiregyhaza 1; Gyor 0 Zalaegerszeg 0; Gazszer 0 Vac 0; Vasas 1 MTK 2; Haladas 0 Dunaferr 1.
Oct 17: Nagykanizsa 0 Tatabanya 0.
Oct 18: Siofok 1 Ujpest 0.
Oct 22: Debrecen 1 Kispest-Honved 1.
Oct 23: Tatabanya 2 Siofok 1; Diosgyor 0 Szeged 0; Nyiregyhaza 1 Haladas 0; Dunaferr 1 Vasas 0; Vac 1 Zalaegerszeg 3.
Oct 24: Nagykanizsa 2 Gyor 0.
Oct 25: MTK 1 Gazszer 1; Ujpest 2 Ferencvaros 2.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dunaferr	10	6	3	1	25	9	21
Gazszer	10	6	3	1	16	12	21
MTK	9	5	3	1	17	8	18
Debrecen	10	5	3	2	15	10	18
Vasas	10	6	0	4	15	10	18
Tatabanya	10	4	4	2	13	13	16
Zalaegerszeg	10	4	3	3	15	5	15
Nagykanizsa	10	3	5	2	12	11	14
Nyiregyhaza	10	4	2	4	11	15	14
Gyor	10	3	4	3	13	8	13
Ferencvaros	10	3	3	4	13	10	12
Ujpest	9	3	3	3	15	15	12
Kispest-Honved	10	3	3	4	12	13	12
Diosgyor	10	2	4	4	10	14	10
Szeged	10	2	3	5	8	22	9
Haladas	10	2	1	7	9	19	7
Vac	10	1	2	7	10	22	5
Siofok	10	2	1	7	5	18	4

ITALY

Saturday, October 16

Fiorentina 0
Parma 2 (Di Vaio 83, Boghossian 90) Att: 35,498

Udinese 0
Lazio 3 (Veron 31, Boksic 43, Mihajlovic 84) Att: 19,439

Sunday, October 17

Lecce 2 (Sesa pen 45, Bonomi 77)
Reggina 1 (Baronio pen 41) Att: 14,060

Milan 2 (Shevchenko pen 10, Bierhoff 78)
Cagliari 2 (Morfeo 7, Berretta 38) Att: 45,000

Piacenza 0
Bologna 0 Att: 10,000

Roma 0
Juventus 1 (Zidane 50) Att: 72,645

Torino 3 (Silenzi 42, Ferrante pen 83, Scarchilli 90)
Bari 1 (Innocenti 46) Att: 20,000

Venezia 1 (Maniero 46)
Internazionale 0 Att: 12,312

Verona 2 (Cammarata 25, Calori og 59)
Perugia 0 Att: 12,000

Saturday, October 23

Internazionale 1 (Ronaldo pen 20)
Milan 2 (Shevchenko 72, Weah 90) Att: 78,815

Perguia 2 (Amoruso 54, 72)
Venezia 1 (Maniero 11) Att: 12,434

Sunday, October 24

Bari 1 (Spinesi 86)
Juventus 1 (Pessotto 21) Att: 41,648

Bologna 0
Verona 0 Att: 24,842

Cagliari 0
Udinese 3 (Van der Vegt 4, Muzzi 7, 63) Att: 20,770

Lazio 4 (Pancaro 27, Stankovic 30, 32, Inzaghi 90)
Lecce 2 (Lucarelli 17, 33) Att: 44,038

Piacenza 2 (Cristallini 83, Di Napoli pen 88)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 9,716

Reggina 2 (Baronio 55, Pirlo 60)
Parma 2 (Crespo 1, 56) Att: 24,344

Torino 1 (Scarchilli 21)
Roma 1 (Di Francesco 55) Att: 19,508

Saturday, October 30

Fiorentina 1 (Balbo 89)
Torino 1 (Sommese 79) Att: 35,330

Inter 1 (Zamorano 36)
Lazio 1 (Pancaro 89) Att: 76,161

Venezia 0
Bologna 1 (Bilica og 12) Att: 8,755

Sunday, October 31

Juventus 1 (Del Piero pen 76)
Piacenza 0 Att: 36,408

Lecce 0
Perugia 1 (Olive 69) Att: 14,968

Parma 2 (Cannavaro 5, Di Vaio 27)
Bari 1 (Innocenti 81) Att: 17,525

Roma 2 (Montella 2, Delvecchio 39)
Cagliari 2 (Oliveira 15, Mboma pen 85) Att: 54,357

Udinese 3 (Poggi 31, 80, Fiore 73)
Reggina 2 (Kallon 56, Possanzini 87) Att: 18,860

Verona 0
Milan 0 Att: 30,556

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	8	5	3	0	19	9	18
Juventus	8	5	2	1	10	5	17
Milan	8	3	5	0	18	11	14
Internazionale	8	4	2	2	13	6	14
Roma	8	3	4	1	13	8	13
Perugia	8	4	1	3	11	11	13
Parma	8	3	3	2	13	12	12
Udinese	8	3	3	2	13	12	12
Torino	8	2	4	2	8	9	10
Bologna	8	2	4	2	4	6	10
Reggina	8	2	3	3	11	12	9
Fiorentina	8	2	3	3	10	12	9
Lecce	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
Verona	8	2	2	4	5	11	8
Bari	8	1	4	3	6	9	7
Piacenza	8	1	3	4	5	9	6
Venezia	8	1	2	5	6	11	5
Cagliari	8	0	4	4	7	15	4

ITALIAN CUP – 2ND RND, 1ST LEGS

Oct 12: Sampdoria 0 Bologna 2.
Oct 13: Cagliari 3 Genoa 1; Napoli 1 Bari 0; Pescara 0 Venezia 0; Ravenna 2 Verona 1; Reggina 0 Piacenza 0; Ternana 1 Perugia 2.
Oct 14: Atalanta 3 Torino 1.

NORWAY

Oct 13: Brann 2 Stabaek 3; Molde 1 Odd Grenland 0.
Oct 16: Stabaek 2 Rosenborg 0.
Oct 17: Kongsvinger 2 Bodo/Glimt 1; Lillestrom 4 Stromsgodset 2; Moss 0 Molde 1; Odd Grenland 3 Brann 1; Skeid 3 Viking 2; Tromso 2 Valerenga 2.
Oct 23: Bodo/Glimt 4 Skeid 2; Brann 1 Moss 0; Molde 2 Lillestrom 0; Stromsgodset 3 Tromso 6; Valerenga 2 Kongsvinger 1.
Oct 24: Rosenborg 3 Odd Grenland 5; Viking 2 Stabaek 3.

NORWAY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	26	18	2	6	75	33	56
Molde	26	16	2	8	49	37	50
Brann	26	16	1	9	45	40	49
Lillestrom	26	15	3	8	60	41	48
Stabaek	26	14	4	8	58	49	46
Tromso	26	13	5	8	70	46	44
Odd Grenland	26	12	3	11	42	48	39
Viking	26	11	3	12	51	48	36
Bodo/Glimt	26	10	4	12	52	54	34
Moss	26	9	2	15	39	46	29
Valerenga	26	8	4	14	40	53	28
Stromsgodset	26	7	3	16	46	68	24
Skeid	26	7	2	17	36	75	23
Kongsvinger	26	6	2	18	34	59	20

Skeid and Kongsvinger are relegated

POLAND

Oct 16: Amica 5 Polonia 0; Odra 1 Pogon 0; Petro Plock 1 Groclin 1; Gornik 1 Wisla 0; Lech 1 LKS 1; Legia 4 Stomil 0.
Oct 17: Zaglebie 0 R Chorzow 0; Widzew 2 R Radzionkow 1.
Oct 23: R Radzionkow 4 Lech 1; Stomil 2 Odra 1; Pogon 2 Petro Plock 1; LKS 2 Gornik 2.
Oct 24: Polonia 1 Legia 1; Groclin 1 Widzew 0; R Chorzow 1 Amica 1; Wisla 4 Zaglebie 0.
Oct 27: LKS 2 Widzew 3.
Oct 30: Lech 1 Gornik 1; Amica 0 Wisla 0; Legia 3 R Chorzow 1; Odra 3 Polonia 1; Petro Plock 1 Halex 1; Widzew 1 Pogon 2; R Radzionkow 2 Groclin 0.
Oct 31: Zaglebie 1 LKS 0.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R Chorzow	14	7	6	1	25	13	27
Legia	14	6	7	1	29	16	25
Wisla	14	7	4	3	25	16	25
Polonia	14	7	4	3	21	17	25
Amica	14	5	7	2	24	16	22
Zaglebie	14	6	4	4	14	14	22
Pogon	14	5	6	3	19	19	21
Halex	14	5	5	4	15	20	20
Petro Plock	14	5	4	5	18	19	19
Gornik	14	4	6	4	26	19	18
R Radzionkow	14	5	3	6	15	20	18
Odra	14	4	4	6	16	17	16
Widzew	14	3	5	6	19	24	14
LKS	14	2	6	6	10	15	12
Lech	14	1	5	8	16	27	8
Groclin	14	1	2	11	8	28	5

PORTUGAL

Sunday, October 17

Alverca 2 (Rui Borges 63, Anderson 77)
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Rui Jorge 5)

Boavista 0
Maritimo 2 (Toedtli 14, 46)

Campomaiorense 2 (Rivas 66, Laelson 82)
Belenenses 1 (Rui Pataca 36)

Estrela Amadora 1 (Jose Carlos 13)
Salgueiros 0

Farense 2 (Everson 46, Marinescu 81)
Santa Clara 2 (Patacas 30, Clayton 65)

Gil Vicente 0
Benfica 2 (Maniche 66, Calado 72)

FC Porto 4 (Argel 43, Capucho 59, Jardel pen 78, Deco 89)
Uniao Leiria 2 (Rubens Junior og 40, Duah 68)

Rio Ave 1 (Chicabala 81)
Vitoria Setubal 1 (Helio 14)

Sporting Braga 2 (Barroso pen 18, Toni 89)
Guimaraes 4 (Odair og 63, Brandao pen 69, 90, Pedro Mendes 87)

Friday, October 22

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Chiquinho Conde 12)
Farense 1 (Everson 30)

Saturday, October 23

Guimaraes 1 (Geraldo 81)
FC Porto 1 (Ricardo Silva 62)

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Jordanov 51, Franceschi 60)
Sporting Braga 0

Sunday, October 24

Belenenses 2 (Gouveia 28, Rui Pataca 56)
Rio Ave 1 (Hugo Henrique 62)

Benfica 1 (Joao Pinto 32)
Boavista 1 (Whelliton 81)

Maritimo 3 (Toedtli 42, Sumudica pen 53, 75)
Alverca 0

Salgueiros 1 (Paquito 21)
Gil Vicente 2 (Pedro Santos 28, Casquilha 80)

Santa Clara 1 (Portela 28)
Estrela Amadora 1 (Eric Gaucho 49)

Uniao Leiria 1 (Bilro pen 53)
Campomaiorense 2 (Abilio 11, Laelson 80)

Friday, October 29

Campomaiorense 2 (Laelson 10, Abilio 37)
Guimaraes 1 (Fredrik 28)

Saturday, October 30

Boavista 2 (Litos 18, Rogerio 48)
Salgueiros 1 (Edu 63)

FC Porto 3 (Chainho 5, Jardel 60, 90)
Sporting Lisbon 0

Sunday, October 31

Alverca 3 (Milinkovic 45, Anderson 76, 77)
Benfica 1 (Nuno Gomes 25)

Belenenses 1 (Seba 14)
Uniao Leiria 0

Gil Vicente 3 (Petit 15, Lomba 48, Tavares 60)
Santa Clara 1 (Clayton 77)

Rio Ave 1 (Peu 46)
Farense 1 (Hassan 25)

Sporting Braga 1 (Silva 34)
Maritimo 2 (Toedtli 72, Sumodica 83)

Monday, November 1

Estrela Amadora 3 (Gaucho 5, 18, Lazaro 62)
Vitoria Setubal 0

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	9	6	2	1	15	5	20
FC Porto	9	5	4	0	16	5	19
Maritimo	9	5	2	2	14	7	17
Belenenses	9	4	3	2	12	7	15
Sporting Lisbon	9	4	3	2	14	10	15
Guimaraes	9	4	3	2	14	10	15
Boavista	9	4	3	2	8	7	15
Gil Vicente	9	4	2	3	12	8	14
Alverca	9	4	2	3	11	12	14
Estrela Amadora	9	2	5	2	10	11	11
Santa Clara	9	2	4	3	13	14	10
Salgueiros	9	3	1	5	8	11	10
Rio Ave	9	2	4	3	11	16	10
Campomaiorense	9	3	1	5	9	15	10
Farense	9	1	4	4	6	15	7
Uniao Leiria	9	1	3	5	8	12	6
Vitoria Setubal	9	1	3	5	10	17	6
Sporting Braga	9	1	1	7	9	18	4

ROMANIA

Oct 15: Steaua 3 Ceahlaul 0; Brasov 3 National 1.
Oct 16: Petrolul 0 Farul 0; Arges 1 Bacau 1; Otelul 0 Astra 1; Gloria 1 U Craiova 0; Rocar 5 Onesti 1; Extensiv 1 Resita 0.
Oct 17: Dinamo 2 Rapid 1.
Oct 22: Resita 2 Petrolul 2.
Oct 23: National 2 Rapid 3; Onesti 3 Brasov 2; Farul 0 Rocar 1; U Craiova 3 Extensiv 0; Ceahlaul 1 Arges 0; Bacau 1 Otelul 0; Astra 2 Gloria 1.
Oct 24: Steaua 1 Dinamo 1.
Oct 26: Otelul 3 Ceahlaul 0.
Oct 27: Extensiv 0 Astra 1; Brasov 3 Farul 2; Gloria 2 Bacau 0; National 1 Dinamo 3; Petrolul 0 U Craiova 0; Rapid 3 Onesti 1; Rocar 4 Resita 0.
Oct 30: Ceahlaul 1 Gloria 0; Resita 3 Brasov 1; Dinamo 4 Arges 0; Farul 1 Rapid 1; Bacau 1 Extensiv 0; Onesti 1 National 0; Steaua 2 Otelul 1; U Craiova 2 Rocar 1.
Oct 31: Astra 2 Petrolul 0.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	14	12	2	0	42	9	38
Rapid	14	9	3	2	22	13	30
Ceahlaul	14	8	3	3	20	18	27
Arges	14	8	2	4	16	12	26
Steaua	14	8	1	5	28	21	25
Astra	14	8	1	5	21	16	25
Gloria	15	7	1	7	22	22	22
Bacau	14	6	4	4	17	17	22
Otelul	15	6	2	7	25	23	20
Onesti	15	6	2	7	20	26	20
Rocar	15	6	0	9	21	23	18
Petrolul	15	5	3	7	16	24	18
Brasov	15	5	1	9	23	24	16
Farul	15	4	4	7	18	19	16
U Craiova	15	4	3	8	17	19	15
National	14	4	2	8	18	21	14
Resita	15	2	5	8	15	35	11
Extensiv	15	3	1	11	10	29	10

RUSSIA

Oct 16: Chernomorets 1 Torpedo 2; Rostselmash 1 Lokomotiv NN 0; Rotor 1 Saturn 1; CSKA 3 Zhemchuzhina 0; Spartak 3 Lokomotiv M 0; Zenit 0 Dinamo 0; Shinnik 1 Kryliya Sovetov 2; Uralan 3 Alaniya 0.
Oct 23: Alaniya 3 Shinnik 1; Kryliya Sovetov 3 Zenit 2; Dinamo 1 Spartak 1; Zhemchuzhina 2 Rotor 2; Saturn 1 Rostselmash 1; Lokomotiv NN 0 Torpedo 1;

Uralan 3 Chernomorets 1.
Oct 24: Lokomotiv M 1 CSKA 0.
Oct 30: Torpedo 0 Saturn 2; Rostselmash 2 Zhemchuzhina 1; Rotor 1 Lokomotiv M 0; CSKA 4 Dinamo 1; Zenit 2 Alaniya 2; Shinnik 1 Uralan 0; Lokomotiv NN 3 Chernomorets 2.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	29	21	6	2	72	24	69
Lokomotiv M	29	19	5	5	59	30	62
CSKA	29	15	9	5	55	28	54
Torpedo	29	13	10	6	37	32	49
Alaniya	29	12	7	10	54	42	43
Dinamo	29	11	8	10	42	40	41
Rostselmash	29	11	8	10	32	34	41
Zenit	29	9	11	9	36	34	38
Uralan	29	10	5	14	27	34	35
Saturn	29	8	9	12	29	37	33
Lokomotiv NN	29	9	5	15	32	47	32
Rotor	29	7	10	12	35	49	31
Kryliya Sovetov	29	8	6	15	38	48	30
Chernomorets	29	7	7	15	29	48	28
Zhemchuzhina	29	5	10	14	28	54	25
Shinnik	29	5	8	16	20	44	23

SCOTLAND

Saturday, October 16

Celtic 7 (Berkovic 16, Larsson 40, 43, 73, Viduka 61, 64, 88)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 60,033

Hearts 1 (McSwegan 7)
St Johnstone 1 (Lowndes 57) Att: 12,812

Kilmarnock 1 (Jeffrey 73)
Rangers 1 (Van Bronckhorst 25) Att: 15,795

Motherwell 2 (McCulloch 32, McMillan 67)
Hibernian 2 (Latapy pen 9, Paatelainen 57) Att: 7,559

Sunday, October 17

Dundee 0
Dundee Utd 2 (Dodds 13, Thompson 51) Att: 9,484

Wednesday, October 20

Motherwell 5 (Spencer 19, 65, 71, Goodman 44, Teale pen 79)
Aberdeen 6 (Dow 3, Winters 8, 25, 59, Jess 39, Bernard 68) Att: 5,009

Saturday, October 23

Aberdeen 2 (Bernard 2, 57)
Kilmarnock 2 (Cocard 50, Mitchell 86) Att: 10,352

Dundee Utd 0
Motherwell 2 (Spencer 45, Teale pen 69) Att: 6,213

Hibernian 5 (Miller 31, Latapy 40, 79, Sauzee 63, Lehmann 90)
Dundee 2 (Matute 6, Falconer 73) Att: 10,160

St Johnstone 1 (Lowndes 29)
Celtic 2 (Burchill 48, Wieghorst 90) Att: 9,500

Wednesday, October 27

Celtic 0
Motherwell 1 (Twaddle 15) Att: 58,731

Hearts 2 (Cameron 83, Juanjo 90)
Kilmarnock 2 (MacPherson 63, Cocard 90) Att: 12,541

St Johnstone 0
Dundee Utd 1 (Dodds 70) Att: 4,236

Saturday, October 30

Aberdeen 1 (Solberg pen 10)
Rangers 5 (Johansson 23, 78, 80, Mols 67, Amato 68) Att: 16,846

Celtic 5 (Viduka 52, 55, 57, Wright 77, Burley 85)
Kilmarnock 1 (Cocard 36) Att: 59,720

Dundee 1 (Tweed 2)
Hearts 0 Att: 6,018

Motherwell 1 (Twaddle 9)
St Johnstone 0 Att: 6,173

Sunday, October 31

Hibernian 3 (De Vos og 8, Latapy pen 60, 78)
Dundee Utd 2 (Dodds 5, Telasnikov 33) Att: 11,073

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	10	9	1	0	30	8	28
Celtic	11	9	0	2	32	6	27
Dundee Utd	12	6	2	4	16	16	20
Motherwell	11	4	4	3	18	19	16
Hearts	10	4	3	3	17	14	15
Hibernian	12	3	5	4	21	24	14
St Johnstone	12	3	3	6	13	18	12
Dundee	12	4	0	8	17	24	12
Kilmarnock	12	2	4	6	12	18	10
Aberdeen	12	1	2	9	12	41	5

SPAIN

Tuesday, October 12

Atletico Madrid 1 (Hasselbaink 78)
Alaves 0 Att: 25,000

Malaga 3 (Edgar 28, Catanha pen 48, 60)
Athletic Bilbao 4 (Alkorta 21, Lacruz 74, 84, J Etxeberria 89) Att: 30,000

Mallorca 2 (Quinteros 80, Stankovic pen 90)
La Coruna 2 (Pauleta 48, 67) Att: 15,000

Sevilla 3 (Quevedo 2, Juan Carlos 75, Loren 89)
Betis Sevilla 0 Att: 40,000

Wednesday, October 13

Barcelona 2 (Rivaldo 29, Figo 49)
Real Madrid 2 (Raul 27, 86) Att: 100,000

Celta Vigo 2 (Caceres 37, Mostovoi 54)
Zaragoza 1 (Milosevic 27) Att: 15,000

Oviedo 1 (Dely Valdes 16)
Valladolid 1 (Rodrigo pen 68) Att: 8,200

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Hernandez 48, Canabal 83)
Espanyol 1 (Velamazan 86) Att: 5,500

Real Sociedad 2 (Bonilla 4, Antia 85)
Racing Santander 5 (Munitis 46, Salva 63, 68, 75, 86) Att: 20,000

Valencia 4 (Ilie 30, 51, Farinos 68, Oscar 89)
Numancia 0 Att: 35,000

Saturday, October 16

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Urzaiz 19)
Valencia 0 Att: 35,000

La Coruna 4 (Donato 37, Djalminha 57, 73, Victor 67)
Malaga 1 (Catanha pen 14) Att: 16,000

Numancia 3 (Ojeda pen 83, Ruben Navarro 87, Pacheta 90)
Barcelona 3 (Figo 5, Litmanen 69, Dani 89) Att: 9,500

Racing Santander 3 (Salva 5, 16, 44)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 14,576

Real Madrid 2 (Morientes 10, Savio 28)
Oviedo 2 (Losada 26, Pompei 84) Att: 70,000

Sunday, October 17

Alaves 0
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bolo 82) Att: 17,000

Betis Sevilla 2 (Prats 29, Finidi 56)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Solari 6) Att: 30,000

Espanyol 0
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 18,400

Valladolid 2 (Congo 4, Victor 67)
Sevilla 1 (Otero 21) Att: 11,700

Zaragoza 3 (Milosevic pen 50, 58, Acuna 89)
Mallorca 0 Att: 17,000

Saturday, October 23

Barcelona 4 (Cocu 38, Rivaldo 60, Figo pen 77, Dani 90)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 75,000

Sevilla 1 (Tsartas 21)
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 82) Att: 42,000

Valencia 2 (Kily Gonzalez 27, Gerard 86)
La Coruna 0 Att: 40,000

Sunday, October 24

Atletico Madrid 3 (Capdevila 27, Solari 70, Hasselbaink 89)
Valladolid 1 (Victor 62) Att: 25,000

Celta Vigo 2 (Gustavo Lopez 6, Juanfran 85)
Espanyol 1 (De Lucas 42) Att: 22,000

Mallorca 2 (Lauren 18, Quinteros 20)
Malaga 1 (De Los Santos 50) Att: 16,300

Oviedo 1 (Losada 59)
Numancia 0 Att: 11,000

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Luis Cembranos 58)
Betis Sevilla 3 (Alfonso pen 64, 71, Denilson 68) Att: 10,000

Real Sociedad 1 (Lopez Rekarte 36)
Alaves 1 (Astudillo 23) Att: 25,000

Zaragoza 4 (Milosevic 28, 79, 89, Juanele 49)
Racing Santander 1 (Tais 83) Att: 17,000

Saturday, October 30

La Coruna 2 (Makaay 2, 16)
Barcelona 1 (Rivaldo 66) Att: 35,000

Malaga 1 (Edgar 28)
Valencia 1 (Lopez 68) Att: 32,000

Real Madrid 1 (Morientes 9)
Atletico Madrid 3 (Hasselbaink 13, 39, Jose Mari 31) Att: 80,000

Sunday, October 31

Alaves 1 (Salinas 60)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 18,500

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Ezquerro 20)
Oviedo 1 (Dubovsky 14) Att: 35,000

Betis Sevilla 1 (Finidi 45)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 40,000

Espanyol 1 (Pochettino 90)
Zaragoza 1 (Acuna 32) Att: 20,700

Numancia 2 (Navarro 33, Moran 81)
Sevilla 0 Att: 8,000

Racing Santander 1 (Amavisca pen 77)
Mallorca 1 (Stankovic 80) Att: 18,000

Valladolid 1 (Victor 69)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Ferron 10, Llorens 83) Att: 11,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rayo Vallecano	10	7	1	2	14	9	22
Barcelona	10	6	2	2	24	11	20
Zaragoza	10	5	3	2	17	7	18
La Coruna	10	5	3	2	18	12	18
Celta Vigo	10	6	0	4	11	10	18
Betis Sevilla	10	5	1	4	9	13	16
Racing Santander	10	4	3	3	18	16	15
Espanyol	10	4	2	4	13	14	14
Alaves	10	4	2	4	9	10	14
Atletico Madrid	10	4	1	5	14	16	13
Real Madrid	10	2	6	2	18	17	12
Athletic Bilbao	10	3	3	4	13	17	12
Oviedo	10	3	3	4	9	13	12
Numancia	10	3	3	4	11	17	12
Valencia	10	3	2	5	13	12	11
Mallorca	10	3	2	5	13	15	11
Valladolid	10	3	2	5	10	14	11
Malaga	10	2	3	5	15	19	9
Real Sociedad	10	2	3	5	12	17	9
Sevilla	10	1	5	4	11	13	8

SWEDEN

Oct 12: Orebro 0 Helsingborgs 1.
Oct 16: Orgryte 1 AIK 1.
Oct 17: Halmstads 3 Elfsborg 0.
Oct 18: Kalmar 0 Djurgardens 0; Hammarby 2 IFK Gothenburg 1; Norrkoping 2 Vastra Frolunda 1; Malmo 1 Trelleborgs 2.
Oct 23: AIK 3 Malmo 0.
Oct 24: Orgryte 3 Norrkoping 1; Vastra Frolunda 0 Halmstads 0; Elfsborg 3 Orebro 1; Trelleborgs 1 Kalmar 0; Djurgardens 2 IFK Gothenburg 0; Helsingborgs 2 Hammarby 0.
Oct 30: Kalmar 0 Elfsborg 1; Orebro 0 AIK 2; Hammarby 4 Trelleborgs 0; IFK Gothenburg 0 Helsingborgs 1; Norrkoping 1 Djurgardens 1; Halmstads 0 Orgryte 0; Malmo 2 Vastra Frolunda 1.

SWEDEN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Helsingborgs	26	17	3	6	44	24	54
AIK	26	16	5	5	42	14	53
Halmstads	26	14	6	6	43	22	48
Orgryte	26	11	10	5	41	23	43
Norrkoping	26	11	6	9	41	36	39
IFK Gothenburg	26	11	5	10	27	33	38
Vastra Frolunda	26	9	7	10	30	33	34
Trelleborgs	26	9	6	11	39	47	33
Elfsborg	26	9	5	12	41	48	32
Hammarby	26	8	5	13	32	42	29
Kalmar	26	8	4	14	27	41	28
Orebro	26	8	3	15	24	36	27
Malmo	26	7	4	15	30	48	25
Djurgardens	26	5	9	12	27	41	24

SWITZERLAND

Oct 11: Lausanne 3 Delemont 0.
Oct 16: Servette 0 Lausanne 1; St Gallen 4 Aarau 1.
Oct 17: Grasshopper 1 Basle 1; Delemont 2 Zurich 2; Yverdon 0 Neuchatel Xamax 0; Lucerne 3 Lugano 0.
Oct 23: Lausanne 2 Lucerne 1.
Oct 24: Neuchatel Xamax 0 Grasshopper 1; Aarau 4 Delemont 2; Lugano 2 Yverdon 2; Zurich 2 Servette 0; Basle 4 St Gallen 1.
Oct 30: Lausanne 2 Lugano 0; Lucerne 0 Zurich 1; Servette 1 Aarau 1.
Oct 31: Delemont 2 Basle 2; Grasshopper 0 Yverdon 0; St Gallen 2 Neuchatel Xamax 1.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Gallen	17	9	5	3	33	23	32
Lausanne	17	8	6	3	27	17	30
Basle	17	7	8	2	25	14	29
Grasshopper	17	6	7	4	27	20	25
Servette	17	7	3	7	27	27	24
Yverdon	17	5	8	4	22	18	23
Lucerne	17	6	4	7	20	22	22
Aarau	17	6	4	7	26	34	22
Zurich	17	5	6	6	16	21	21
Lugano	17	4	5	8	21	24	17
Delemont	17	3	5	9	21	35	14
Neuchatel Xamax	17	2	7	8	20	30	13

TURKEY

Oct 15: Galatasaray 2 Antalyaspor 0.
Oct 16: Ankaragucu 1 Goztepe 2; Trabzonspor 2 Fenerbahce 0.
Oct 17: Adanaspor 1 Bursaspor 1; Denizlispor 3 Kocaelispor 1; Vanspor 0 Samsunspor 0; Gaziantepspor 6 Erzurum 0; Altay 2 Besiktas 2; Istanbulspor 3 Genclerbirligi 1.
Oct 22: Bursaspor 0 Galatasaray 0.
Oct 23: Besiktas 3 Istanbulspor 0.
Oct 24: Erzurum 2 Trabzonspor 1; Genclerbirligi 0 Gaziantepspor 1; Fenerbahce 1 Ankaragucu 1; Goztepe 0 Adanaspor 1; Vanspor 5 Kocaelispor 0; Denizlispor 2 Altay 1; Samsunspor 0 Antalyaspor 1.
Oct 29: Galatasaray 2 Goztepe 0.
Oct 30: Ankaragucu 1 Erzurum 0; Adanaspor 1 Fenerbahce 3.
Oct 31: Altay 2 Vanspor 0; Samsunspor 5 Kocaelispor 1; Istanbulspor 1 Denizlispor 1; Gaziantepspor 0 Besiktas 0; Antalyaspor 1 Bursaspor 1; Trabzonspor 1 Genclerbirligi 2.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	8	6	1	1	17	6	19
Gaziantepspor	8	5	2	1	13	4	18
Denizlispor	8	5	2	1	14	8	17
Besiktas	8	4	3	1	17	4	15
Fenerbahce	8	4	3	1	15	7	15
Trabzonspor	8	4	1	3	12	8	13
Altay	8	3	3	2	13	8	12
Istanbulspor	8	3	2	3	9	11	11
Antalyaspor	8	3	2	3	9	12	11
Genclerbirligi	8	3	2	3	8	11	11
Samsunspor	8	3	1	4	10	12	10
Goztepe	8	2	3	3	6	7	9
Erzurumspor	8	2	2	4	7	15	8
Adanaspor	8	1	3	4	10	14	6
Bursaspor	8	1	3	4	6	11	6
Kocaelispor	8	1	3	4	10	18	6
Vanspor	8	1	2	5	6	15	5
Ankaragucu	8	1	2	5	5	16	5

UKRAINE

Oct 3: CSKA 1 Vorskla 1.
Oct 6: Nyva 3 Prykarpattya 1.
Oct 15: Dynamo 2 Tavriya 0.
Oct 16: Kryvbas 0 Metalurh D 0; Metalurh M 2 Nyva 1; Dnipro 2 Zirka 0; Metalurh Z 3 Karpaty 1; Shakhtar 3 Metalist 1; Vorskla 4 Chornomorets 0; Prykarpattya 0 CSKA 0.
Oct 23: Nyva 0 Dynamo 1.
Oct 24: CSKA 1 Metalurh M 1; Karpaty 1 Shakhtar 0; Zirka 0 Kryvbas 3; Metalist 2 Prykarpattya 0; Chornomorets 1 Metalurh Z 0; Metalurh D 2 Vorskla 3; Tavriya 1 Dnipro 1.
Oct 28: CSKA 1 Shakhtar 0; Karpaty 3 Vorskla 1; Chornomorets 2 Kryvbas 0.
Oct 30: Dynamo 4 Dnipro 0.
Oct 31: Metalurh Z 1 Metalurh D 1; Metalurh M 3 Metalist 1.
Nov 1: Kryvbas 2 Tavriya 1; Vorskla 1 Zirka 1; Prykarpattya 3 Karpaty 1; Nyva 2 CSKA 2.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	11	10	1	0	26	6	31
Kryvbas	13	9	3	1	25	12	30
Vorskla	14	7	3	4	28	18	24
Shakhtar	12	7	1	4	17	6	22
Metalurh Z	13	6	4	3	18	13	22
Karpaty	14	7	0	7	24	20	21
Metalurh D	14	5	5	4	18	15	20
Metalist	13	6	2	5	15	16	20
Metalurh M	14	6	1	7	25	21	19
CSKA	14	4	6	4	17	13	18
Tavriya	14	4	4	6	19	21	16
Dnipro	14	3	4	7	12	29	13
Prykarpattya	13	2	5	6	11	17	11
Nyva	14	2	5	7	18	27	11
Chornomorets	13	3	2	8	7	26	11
Zirka	14	0	6	8	7	27	6

YUGOSLAVIA

Oct 6: Hajduk B 1 Mogren 0.
Oct 10: Milicionar 2 Cukaricki 0.
Oct 13: Hajduk K 1 Proleter 1; Mogren 1 Cukaricki 3; Sartid 1 Partizan 3; Borac 0 Radnicki N 2; Milicionar 2 Sutjeska 1; Obilic 3 Hajduk B 2; Red Star 4 Spartak 0; Zeleznik 3 Radnicki K 1; Zemun 2 OFK 1; Buducnost 1 Rad 0.
Oct 15: Radnicki N 1 Red Star 2; OFK 2 Buducnost 1; Radnicki K 1 Zemun 0; Spartak 1 Zeleznik 0; Sutjeska 2 Borac 1; Partizan 2 Milicionar 1; Proleter 0 Obilic 2; Cukaricki 2 Sartid 1; Vojvodina 1 Hajduk K 2.
Oct 23: Mogren 2 Proleter 0; Obilic 2 Vojvodina 0; Red Star 5 Sutjeska 0; Borac 0 Partizan 1; Zeleznik 3 Radnicki N 1; Zemun 1 Spartak 0; Rad 0 OFK 1; Sartid 4 Hajduk B 2; Buducnost 2 Radnicki K 0.
Oct 30: Radnicki K 1 Rad 2; Spartak 2 Buducnost 2; Radnicki N 2 Zemun 3; Sutjeska 2 Zeleznik 1; Partizan 2 Red Star 0; Hajduk B 5 Milicionar 1; Proleter 1 Sartid 1; Hajduk K 0 Obilic 2.
Oct 31: Cukaricki 2 Borac 0.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Obilic	12	10	1	1	24	9	31
Partizan	11	9	1	1	20	9	28
Red Star	11	6	4	1	25	8	22
Zeleznik	11	5	3	3	19	13	18
Sutjeska	12	5	2	5	19	21	17
Radnicki K	12	5	2	5	10	14	17
Rad	11	4	4	3	18	13	16
Vojvodina	10	5	1	4	14	9	16
Zemun	11	5	1	5	16	21	16
Hajduk K	11	4	3	4	11	11	15
Buducnost	11	4	3	4	12	13	15
Milicionar	12	4	3	5	14	17	15
Cukaricki	11	4	2	5	12	13	14
Hajduk B	11	4	1	6	22	23	13
Spartak	12	3	4	5	7	17	13
Proleter	11	3	3	5	11	12	12
Sartid	12	3	3	6	14	19	12
OFK	11	3	3	5	13	18	12
Radnicki N	12	4	0	8	15	22	12
Mogren	11	2	4	5	11	17	10
Borac	12	2	2	8	16	24	8
Pristina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOUTH AMERICA

MERCOSUR CUP

Group A

Oct 6 - Avellaneda
Racing Club (Arg) 0
River Plate (Arg) 1 (Castillo 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Sequeira (Arg)

Oct 6 - Belo Horizonte
Cruzeiro (Bra) 3 (Marcelo Ramos 53, 74, Paulo Isidoro 78)
Palmeiras (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro	6	5	1	0	16	2	16
Palmeiras	6	3	2	1	19	10	11
River Plate	6	2	1	3	8	11	7
Racing Club	6	0	0	6	2	22	0

Group B

Sep 28 - Avellaneda
Independiente (Arg) 2 (Calderon 51, Marioni 66)
Corinthians (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

Oct 5 - Avellaneda
Independiente1 (Graf 76)
Gremio (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chl)

Oct 5 - Sao Paulo
Corinthians 2 (Rincon 21, Cesar Prates 65)
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Aros (Chl)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	6	3	2	1	7	5	11
Corinthians	6	3	1	2	10	5	10
Gremio	6	2	2	2	5	6	8
Velez Sarsfield	6	0	3	3	3	9	3

Group C

Oct 7 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo (Arg) 1 (Pusineri 14)
Sao Paulo (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Troxler (Par)

Oct 7 - Santiago
Universidad Catolica (Chl) 1 (Figueroa 77)
Boca Juniors (Arg) 3 (Palermo 2, Guillermo Barros Schelotto pen 61, 81)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Lorenzo	6	4	0	2	11	8	12
Boca Juniors	6	3	1	2	10	5	10
Sao Paulo	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
U Catolica	6	1	0	5	2	13	3

Group D

Sep 29 - Asuncion
Cerro Porteno (Par) 2 (Campos 23, Gavilan 76)
Nacional (Uru) 3 (Alves pen 13, 89, Bergara 87)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Pena (Chl)

Oct 5 - Rio de Janeiro
Vasco da Gama (Bra) 5 (Viola 31, Paulo Cesar 74, Paulo Miranda 76, Ramon pen 88, 89)
Cerro Porteno 1 (Gavilan 79)
HT: 1-0

Oct 5 - Montevideo
Nacional 1 (Delgado 77)
Penarol (Uru) 2 (Pandiani 20, Pacheco 59)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	6	3	3	0	10	7	12
Nacional	6	3	1	2	10	6	10
Vasco da Gama	6	2	2	2	9	8	8
Cerro Porteno	6	0	2	4	9	17	2

Group E

Oct 7 - Asuncion
Olimpia (Par) 2 (Baez 30, Punete 67)
Colo Colo (Chl) 1 (Barticciotto 50)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)

Oct 7 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo (Bra) 7 (Caio 5, Romario 16, 18, 36, 55, Marco Antonio 47, Rodrigo Mendes 86)
Universidad de Chile 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 6,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	6	4	0	2	10	7	12
Flamengo	6	3	1	2	16	8	10
Colo Colo	6	2	2	2	6	8	8
U de Chile	6	1	1	4	4	13	4

Group winners and three second-placed teams with best records qualified for the quarter finals*
**Corinthians went through after toss of coin v Boca Juniors*

QUARTER-FINALS – 1ST LEGS

Oct 20 - Asuncion
Olimpia 1 (Monzon 70)
Penarol 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)

Oct 21 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo 2 (Romagnoli 43, I Cordoba 61)
Corinthians 1 (Ricardinho 25)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Mendez (Uru)

Oct 22 - Sao Paulo
Palmeiras 7 (Paulo Nunes 1, 89, Evair 58, 80, Alex 76, Euller 86, 90)
Cruzeiro 3 (Isaias 18, Ricardinho 27, Marcelo Ramos 85)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Cedeira (Bra)

2ND LEGS

Oct 27 - Sao Paulo
Corinthians 1 (Edilson 14)
San Lorenzo 2 (Franco 17, Romeo 51)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Sanchez (Chl)
San Lorenzo 4-2 on agg

Oct 28 - Montevideo
Penarol 3 (Cedres 14, Pandiani 48, 63)
Olimpia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Gimenez (Arg)
Penarol 3-1 on agg

MERCONORTE CUP

Group A

Sep 29 - Cali
America (Col) 1 (Romero 23)
Atletico Nacional (Col) 1 (Castro 76)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Rojas (Col)

Sep 30 - Lima
Universitario (Per) 2 (Jose del Solar 9, Piero Alva 21)
El Nacional (Ecu) 0
HT: 2-0

Oct 19 - Cali
America 2 (Perez 37, Moreno 65)
Universitario 1 (Cantoro 21)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Guevara (Ecu)

Oct 21 - Quito
El Nacional 3 (Ferri 22, Valencia 69, Palacios 83)
Atletico Nacional 2 (Escobar 4, Morantes 46)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Paniagua (Bol)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	5	4	1	0	11	6	13
El Nacional	5	2	0	3	8	12	6
At Nacional	5	1	2	2	11	9	5
Universitario	5	1	1	3	7	10	4

Group B

Oct 6 - Guayaquil
Barcelona (Ecu) 0
Alianza Lima (Per) 0
Att: 700. **Ref:** Russi (Col)

Oct 7 - Bogota
Millonarios (Col) 3 (Cuero 2, Tilger 5, Chitava 58)
The Strongest (Bol) 2 (Pena 28, Vidal Gonzalez 89)
HT: 2-1

Oct 27 - La Paz
The Strongest 2 (Pena 9, 59)
Barcelona 2 (Palacios 47, Ayovi 63)
HT: 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millonarios	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Alianza Lima	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Barcelona	5	1	3	1	7	4	6
The Strongest	5	1	1	3	7	7	4

Group C

Oct 12 - Bogota
Independiente Santa Fe (Col) 2 (Cano 24, Salazar 86)
Sporting Cristal (Per) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Borosano (Ven)

Oct 15 - Guayaquil
Emelec (Ecu) 0
Caracas (Ven) 1 (Juan Garcia 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep Santa Fe	4	3	1	0	8	1	10
Caracas	4	3	0	1	6	5	9
Emelec	4	1	0	3	6	8	3
Sporting Cristal	4	0	1	3	5	11	1

Group winners and second-placed side with the best record qualify for semi-finals

LIBERTADORES CUP

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Oct 19 - San Cristobal
Deportivo Tachira (Ven) 2 (Herrera 59, Romanello 84)
Atlas (Mex) 2 (J Rodriguez 46, Castillo 54)
HT: 0-0

Oct 22 - Caracas
Ital-Chacao (Ven) 3 (Castellin (2), Turdo)
Atlas 3 (Castillo, Osorno (2))
Ref: Cervantes (Col)

CONMEBOL CUP

FIRST ROUND - 1ST LEGS

Oct 12: Rosario Central (Arg) 2 Dep Concepcion (Chl) 2.
Oct 13: Estudiantes (Ven) 2 Quindio (Col) 0; Dep Cuenca (Ecu) 2 Sport Boys (Per) 2; Parana (Bra) 1 San Lorenzo (Par) 0; Independiente Petrolero (Bol) 4 Talleres Cordoba (Arg) 1; At Huila (Col) 1 Sao Raimundo (Bra) 2; Alagoano (Bra) 2 Vila Nova (Bra) 0.

2ND LEGS

Oct 19: Quindio 2 Estudiantes 0 *Agg 2-2. Estudiantes 5-3 on pens*; Sport Boys 0 Dep Cuenca 0 *Agg 2-2. Sport Boys 4-3 on pens*; San Lorenzo 2 Parana 1 *Agg 2-2. Parana 3-1 on pens.*

Oct 20: Talleres Cordoba 3 Independiente Petrolero 0 *Agg 4-4. Talleres 4-3 on pens*; Dep Concepcion 2 Rosario Central 1 *Concepcion 4-3 on agg.*
Oct 21: Sao Raimundo 2 At Huila 1 *Sao Raimundo 4-2 on agg*; Vila Nova 2 Alagoano 0 *Agg 2-2. Alagoano 4-3 on pens.*

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

September 24-26

Argentinos Juniors 2 (Zagharian 29, Osorio 84)
River Plate 0

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Carnero 5, 9)
Gimnasia LP 2 (Cufre 24, D Alonso 26)

Boca Juniors 0
San Lorenzo 0

Colon Santa Fe 0
Racing Club 1 (Delgado)

Estudiantes 4 (Piersimone 19, Farias 39, 68, Yaque 57)
Talleres Cordoba 2 (R Silva 13, Astudillo 50)

Independiente 0
Union Santa Fe 0

Instituto Cordoba 2 (Castro 30, Jimenez 33)
Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (Vales 24)

Lanus 2 (Vilallonga 17, pen 41)
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Fuentes 36)

Rosario Central 3 (Cuberas 12, Maceratesi 48, Pizzi 67)
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Shiavi 36, R Capria 84)

Velez Sarsfield 3 (D Husain 3, Bardaro 10, 46)
Gimnasia J 0

September 29

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Carrario 45)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Pino 41)

October 1-4

Chacarita Juniors 4 (D Capria 30, 34, Carrario 49, R Capria 81)
Colon Santa Fe 2 (Biaggio 41, Enria 45)

Ferro Carril Oeste 0
Rosario Central 4 (Maceratesi 30, 56, Cappelletti 62, Pizzi 78)

Gimnasia J 1 (Juarez 12)
Boca Juniors 3 (Guillermo Barros Schelotto 31, Palermo 41, 90)

Gimnasia LP 2 (San Esteban pen 6, pen 21)
Independiente 0

Newell's Old Boys 0
Argentinos Juniors 2 (Gamboa og 26, Osorio 87)

Racing Club 2 (Canobbio 35, Estevez 69)
Estudiantes 0

River Plate 0
Velez Sarsfield 0

San Lorenzo 2 (Franco 17, Pusineri 80)
Instituto Cordoba 0

Talleres Cordoba 3 (Pino 5, Gigena 13, Astudillo 49)
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Montenegro 21)

Union Santa Fe 1 (Vega 16)
Lanus 2 (Vilallonga 14, pen 90)

October 8-11

Argentinos Juniors 0
Union Santa Fe 1 (Cabrol 62)

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Lujambio 31, 63)
Racing Club 0

Boca Juniors 2 (Palermo 12, 84)
Instituto Cordoba 0

Colon Santa Fe 4 (Biaggio 28, 45, 78, Velazquez og 47)
Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (Chaparro 74)

Estudiantes 0
Chacarita Juniors 1 (Muller 60)

Gimnasia J 0
River Plate 2 (Saviola 51, Argel 53)

Independiente 2 (Calderon 10, Garnero 20)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Astudillo 37)

Lanus 2 (Clotet 23, Vilallonga 73)
Gimnasia LP 2 (Alonso 40, 77)

Rosario Central 3 (Pizzi 9, 20, 38)
San Lorenzo 1 (Franco 26)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Bardaro 46)
Newell's Old Boys 0

October 15-18

Chacarita Juniors 6 (Muller 1, 39, 74, R Capria 3, 54, D Capria 15)
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Camero pen 63)

Ferro Carril Oeste 0
Estudiantes 0

Gimnasia LP 1 (D Alonso 86)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Osorio 73)

Instituto Cordoba 0
Rosario Central 0

Newell's Old Boys 4 (Cejas pen 5, Fuentes 45, Manso 57, Crosa 86)
Gimnasia J 2 (Coronel 17, Guiberguis 84)

Racing Club 0
Independiente 0

River Plate 2 (Aimar 37, Angel 66)
Boca Juniors 0

San Lorenzo 5 (Estevez 15, 90, Netto 51, Romeo 60, 72)
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Biaggio 20)

Talleres Cordoba 3 (Pino 5, Gigena 47, Maidana 75)
Lanus 0

Union Santa Fe 0
Velez Sarsfield 0

ARGENTINA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	11	7	3	1	24	12	24
San Lorenzo	11	7	3	1	20	9	24
Velez Sarsfield	11	6	4	1	15	5	22
Boca Juniors	11	6	3	2	19	9	21
Rosario Central	10	6	1	3	20	11	19
Talleres Cordoba	11	5	3	3	18	12	18
Racing Club	11	4	6	1	12	9	18
Lanus	11	5	2	4	14	16	17
Chacarita Juniors	11	4	4	3	23	17	16
Argentinos Juniors	11	3	5	3	12	9	14
Gimnasia LP	11	2	7	2	14	12	13
Belgrano Cordoba	11	3	4	4	13	19	13
Independiente	11	2	6	3	10	12	12
Colon Santa Fe	11	3	3	5	14	18	12
Union Santa Fe	11	3	2	6	9	15	11
Estudiantes	11	3	2	6	13	20	11
Newell's Old Boys	11	2	4	5	12	14	10
Instituto Cordoba	10	2	4	4	11	16	10
Gimnasia J	11	1	1	9	8	25	4
Ferro Carril Oeste	11	0	3	8	5	25	3

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 4: Destroyers 2 Union Central 4.
Oct 9: Santa Cruz 5 Independiente 0.
Oct 10: Bolivar 4 Oriente 1; Destroyers 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Real Potosi 2 Guabira 1; San Jose 2 Union Central 1.
Oct 11: Blooming 2 The Strongest 0.
Oct 17: Guabira 0 Blooming 2; Independiente 1 Bolivar 2; Oriente 4 San Jose 0; The Strongest 2 Destroyers 0; Union Central 2 Santa Cruz 0; Jorge Wilstermann 4 Real Potosi 1.

GROUP A - FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Strongest	12	7	1	4	21	16	22
Real Potosi	12	7	0	5	20	22	21
Blooming	12	5	5	2	24	13	20
J Wilstermann	12	5	2	5	27	19	17
Guabira	12	3	1	8	11	17	10
Destroyers	12	1	2	9	13	37	5

GROUP B - FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	12	8	2	2	23	10	26
Union Central	12	7	1	4	24	17	22
Independiente	12	6	2	4	20	17	20
Santa Cruz	12	5	1	6	12	13	16
Oriente	12	4	4	4	11	14	16
San Jose	12	3	1	8	12	23	10

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

PLAY-OFFS

Oct 24: Blooming 4 Independiente 1; Bolivar 2 Real Potosi 0; Union Central 2 The Strongest 1.
Oct 27: Bolivar 3 Union Central 0; Real Potosi 3 Blooming 1.
Oct 31: Blooming 1 Bolivar 0; The Strongest 2 Real Potosi 1; Union Central 2 Independiente 1.

PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	3	2	0	1	5	1	6
Blooming	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Union Central	3	2	0	1	4	5	6
The Strongest	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Real Potosi	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Independiente	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 6: Juventude 0 Portuguesa 5; Parana 2 Botafogo RJ 3; Atletico MG 2 Santos 0.
Oct 9: Ponte Preta 2 Santos 0; Coritiba 3 Vasco da Gama 1; Corinthians 1 Parana 0.
Oct 10: Gama 3 Sport Recife 2; Vitoria 3 Atletico PR 2; Sao Paulo 2 Internacional 2; Portuguesa 1 Cruzeiro 1; Atletico MG 2 Juventude 0; Guarani 1 Botafogo SP 1; Botafogo RJ 2 Flamengo 1.
Oct 13: Santos 1 Corinthians 4; Vasco da Gama 5 Gama 2; Sport Recife 1 Coritiba 1; Palmeiras 6 Gremio 0; Cruzeiro 1 Guarani 3.
Oct 14: Internacional 1 Vitoria 1; Atletico PR 4 Sao Paulo 1.
Oct 16: Vasco da Gama 2 Palmeiras 1; Guarani 3 Flamengo 0; Parana 1 Gama 0; Botafogo RJ 1 Portuguesa 0.
Oct 17: Coritiba 2 Atletico PR 1; Santos 3 Juventude 0; Sao Paulo 4 Sport Recife 1; Vitoria 3 Botafogo SP 2; Atletico MG 1 Ponte Preta 2; Corinthians 4 Internacional 2; Gremio 2 Cruzeiro 3.
Oct 20: Gremio 1 Botafogo RJ 0; Portuguesa 1 Vasco da Gama 1; Flamengo 1 Palmeiras 1.
Oct 23: Atletico PR 2 Corinthians 2; Juventude 2 Vasco da Gama 1; Gremio 2 Sport Recife 1; Botafogo SP 2 Internacional 1.
Oct 24: Flamengo 0 Cruzeiro 2; Gama 1 Coritiba 1; Vitoria 2 Parana 0; Ponte Preta 2 Portuguesa 1.
Oct 27: Coritiba 2 Palmeiras 1; Portuguesa 2 Flamengo 3.
Oct 30: Parana 1 Sao Paulo 2; Botafogo RJ 3 Gama 1; Santos 2 Gremio 1.
Oct 31: Vasco da Gama 2 Atletico PR 1; Guarani 1 Vitoria 2; Sport Recife 0 Juventude 1; Corinthians 0 Atletico MG 4; Cruzeiro 2 Botafogo SP 1; Internacional 1 Ponte Preta 0.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	18	12	2	4	42	27	38
Vasco da Gama	19	10	5	4	31	20	35
Cruzeiro	18	10	5	3	36	26	35
Vitoria	19	10	3	6	30	29	33
Ponte Preta	18	9	4	5	21	14	31
Atletico MG	19	9	3	7	37	26	30
Guarani	18	9	2	7	27	21	29
Sao Paulo	19	9	2	8	33	25	29
Flamengo	19	9	2	8	29	29	29
Atletico PR	19	8	4	7	32	28	28
Coritiba	19	7	7	5	28	25	28
Palmeiras	18	7	6	5	30	22	27
Santos	19	7	5	7	21	23	26
Botafogo RJ	19	7	2	10	22	31	23
Gama	19	6	4	9	22	28	22
Gremio	19	6	4	9	24	38	22
Parana	18	5	5	8	18	22	20
Internacional	19	5	4	10	18	27	19
Juventude	19	4	6	9	14	30	18
Portuguesa	19	4	5	10	24	27	17
Botafogo SP	19	4	5	10	24	36	17
Sport Recife	19	3	7	9	12	21	16

CHILE

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Oct 9-10: Huachipato 0 Santiago Morning 2; Audax Italiano 1 Cobreloa 2; Colo Colo 1 Palestino 3; U Catolica 1 U de Chile 1.
Oct 13: U de Chile 4 Audax Italiano 2; Cobreloa 3 Huachipato 0.
Oct 14: U Catolica 1 Colo Colo 0; Santiago Morning 1 Palestino 2.
Oct 16: Colo Colo 3 Santiago Morning 3; Huachipato 1 U de Chile 2.
Oct 17: Audax Italiano 2 U Catolica 2; Palestino 1 Cobreloa 0.
Oct 23: U Catolica 6 Huachipato 1; Cobreloa 1 Santiago Morning 3.
Oct 24: Audax Italiano 0 Colo Colo 1; U de Chile 3 Palestino 1.
Oct 30: Huachipato 0 Audax Italiano 0; Santiago Morning 0 U de Chile 0.
Oct 31: Palestino 2 U Catolica 2; Colo Colo 3 Cobreloa 1.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	5	3	2	0	10	5	30 [19]
U Catolica	5	2	3	0	12	6	25 [16]
Palestino	5	3	1	1	9	7	20 [10]
Cobreloa	5	2	0	3	7	8	20 [14]
Colo Colo	5	2	1	2	8	8	19 [12]
Santiago Morning	5	2	2	1	9	6	18 [10]
Audax Italiano	5	0	2	3	5	9	12 [10]
Huachipato	5	0	1	4	2	13	11 [10]

Points total includes a quarter of the points (shown in brackets) won during regular season

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 6: At Junior 2 Bucaramanga 2; Millonarios 1 Dep Cali 1; Tulua 2 Union Santa Marta 1; America 2 Once Caldas 1; Dep Pasto 0 Indep Santa Fe 1; Indep Medellin 0 At Nacional 0; Envigado 2 Tolima 1; At Huila 2 Quindio 0.
Oct 10: Bucaramanga 2 At Huila 1; At Nacional 3 At Junior 1; Union Santa Marta 3 Dep Pasto 2; Dep Cali 3 Envigado 2; Quindio 1 America 1; Once Caldas 1 Millonarios 1; Indep Santa Fe 0 Indep Medellin 2; Tolima 0 Tulua 2.
Oct 17: Once Caldas 3 Quindio 3; At Huila 1 At Nacional 0; Medellin 3 Union Santa Marta 0; Tulua 1 Dep Cali 1; At Junior 1 Indep Santa Fe 0; America 3 Bucaramanga 1; Millonarios 3 Envigado 2; Dep Pasto 1 Tolima 0.
Oct 24: Quindio 2 Millonarios 2; At Nacional 1 America 0; Dep Cali 2 Dep Pasto 0; Envigado 1 Tulua 0; Tolima 0 Indep Medellin 3; Union Santa Marta 2 At Junior 2; Indep Santa Fe 2 At Huila 1; Bucaramanga 2 Once Caldas 1.
Oct 27: America 3 Indep Santa Fe 1; Once Caldas 4 Nacional 1; At Junior 2 Tolima 0; Millonarios 3 Tulua 0; Indep Medellin 0 Dep Cali 2; Dep Pasto 3 Envigado 2; Quindio 1 Bucaramanga 0; At Huila 2 Union Santa Marta 1.
Oct 31: At Nacional 5 Quindio 1; Tulua 5 Dep Pasto 0; Dep Cali 1 At Junior 0; Tolima 2 At Huila 1; Bucaramanga 0 Millonarios 2; Envigado 0 Indep Medellin 0; Indep Santa Fe 1 Once Caldas 1; Union Santa Marta 1 America 1.

COLOMBIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millonarios	18	8	10	0	26	13	34
Tulua	18	8	8	2	24	14	32
At Nacional	18	9	4	5	27	19	31
At Junior	18	9	4	5	24	21	31
Indep Medellin	18	8	4	6	26	20	28
America	18	7	7	4	25	17	28
Once Caldas	18	6	8	4	32	22	26
Dep Pasto	18	8	1	9	24	29	25
Dep Cali	18	6	7	5	22	20	25
Bucaramanga	18	6	4	8	18	21	22
Envigado	18	6	4	8	21	27	22
Tolima	18	6	1	11	16	24	19
Quindio	18	4	6	8	25	34	18
Indep Santa Fe	18	3	8	7	18	24	17
At Huila	18	4	4	10	19	31	16
Union Santa Marta	18	3	6	9	16	27	15

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 9: Aucas 0 Dep Cuenca 0; El Nacional 3 Macara 0; Olmedo 1 LDU 1; Espoli 2 Emelec 2; Audaz Octubrino 1 Dep Quito 0; Barcelona 1 Delfin 0.

GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Quito	10	6	1	3	19	9	19
Macara	10	5	0	5	15	16	15
Audaz Octubrino	10	5	0	5	13	17	15
El Nacional	10	4	2	4	18	15	14
Barcelona	10	4	1	5	13	14	13
Delfin	10	4	0	6	13	20	12

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Espoli	10	7	1	2	15	11	22
LDU	10	5	2	3	12	8	17
Emelec	10	5	1	4	17	20	16
Olmedo	10	3	2	5	11	14	11
Aucas	10	2	3	5	11	9	9
Dep Cuenca	10	2	3	5	8	12	9

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Oct 17: LDU 0 El Nacional 1; Dep Quito 2 Emelec 2; Barcelona 2 Espoli 1.
Oct 24: Emelec 0 LDU 1; El Nacional 4 Barcelona 1; Dep Quito 4 Espoli 1.
Oct 31: Espoli 0 El Nacional 0; LDU 3 Dep Quito 1; Barcelona 1 Emelec 3.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Nacional	3	2	1	0	5	1	10 [3]
LDU	3	2	0	1	4	2	7 [1]
Dep Quito	3	1	1	1	7	6	6 [2]
Emelec	3	1	1	1	5	4	6 [2]
Barcelona	3	1	0	2	4	8	3 [0]
Espoli	3	0	1	2	2	6	3 [2]

El Nacional, Emelec, LDU and Barcelona qualified as the top four from the Opening Championship; Dep Quito and Espoli as winners of the Second Stage groups. Points total includes bonus points (shown in brackets)

PARAGUAY

OVERALL TABLE
(Opening and Closing Championships combined)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	20	12	7	1	39	17	43
Cerro Porteno	20	12	5	3	46	20	41
Sportivo Luqueno	20	11	6	3	44	27	39
San Lorenzo	20	6	11	3	26	22	29
Guarani	20	6	10	4	29	27	28
12 de Octubre	20	5	12	3	27	22	27
Colegiales	20	6	4	10	25	31	22
Sol de America*	20	5	6	9	18	22	21
Cerro Cora	20	4	6	10	27	39	18
Presidente Hayes	20	2	10	8	16	30	16
Resistencia	20	1	3	16	10	50	6

Presidente Hayes and Resistencia relegated
**Sol de America finished in bottom two of closing championship and miss out on play-offs.*

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

Oct 8: Cerro Cora 2 Guarani 0; Cerro Porteno 3 San Lorenzo 0.
Oct 9: 12 de Octubre 1 Colegiales 0; Sportivo Luqueno 3 Olimpia 1.
Oct 23: Sportivo Luqueno 1 12 de Octubre 1; Olimpia 3 Colegiales 0.
Oct 24: Cerro Porteno 2 Cerro Cora 2; San Lorenzo 3 Guarani 2.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	2	1	1	0	5	2	7 [3]
San Lorenzo	2	1	0	1	3	5	4.5 [1.5]
Cerro Cora	2	1	1	0	4	2	4 [0]
Guarani	2	0	0	2	2	5	0.5 [0.5]

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sportivo Luqueno	2	1	1	0	4	2	6.5 [2.5]
Olimpia	2	1	0	1	4	3	5 [2]
12 de Octubre	2	1	1	0	2	1	5 [1]
Colegiales	2	0	0	2	0	4	0 [0]

Points total includes bonus points (shown in brackets), which were awarded according to finishing position in Closing Championship

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 9-10: Universitario 3 Sport Boys 1; Cienciano 2 Sporting Cristal 0; Juan Aurich 3 Melgar 2; Dep Municipal 3 Union Minas 2; Alianza Lima 1 Dep Pesquero 0; Alianza Atletico 7 IMI Talara 0.
Oct 16-17: Union Minas 0 Alianza Lima 0; Sport Boys 3 Dep Municipal 1; Sporting Cristal 2 Universitario 2; Melgar 2 Cienciano 0; IMI Talara 0 Juan Aurich 1; Dep Pesquero 0 Alianza Atletico 0.
Oct 23-24: Dep Municipal 1 Sporting Cristal 3; Universitario 4 Melgar 2; Alianza Atletico 1 Union Minas 1; Juan Aurich 0 Dep Pesquero 1; Cienciano 3 IMI Talara 0.
Oct 30-31: Sporting Cristal 2 Alianza Lima 2; Melgar 4 Dep Municipal 2; IMI Talara 0 Universitario 0; Dep Pesquero 1 Cienciano 1; Union Minas 3 Juan Aurich 0; Sport Boys 1 Alianza Atletico 1.

PERU

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	15	9	4	2	31	10	31
Sport Boys	15	9	3	3	22	15	30
Universitario	16	8	5	3	27	17	29
Sporting Cristal	16	7	5	4	35	22	26
Melgar	16	8	2	6	31	21	26
Alianza Atletico	16	6	6	4	29	14	24
Cienciano	16	5	7	4	18	15	22
Juan Aurich	16	6	2	8	16	21	20
Union Minas	16	4	6	6	29	28	18
Dep Pesquero	16	2	7	7	10	24	13
IMI Talara	16	1	5	10	8	39	8
Dep Municipal	16	2	2	12	12	44	8

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 8: Huracan Buceo 2 Rampla Juniors 1.
Oct 9: Bella Vista M 0 Penarol 2.
Oct 10: Nacional 2 Rentistas 0; Tacuarembo 1 River Plate 1; Liverpool 0 Danubio 1; Defensor 1 Bella Vista P 1.
Oct 15: Dep Maldonado 3 Bella Vista M 3.
Oct 16: Danubio 2 Defensor 2; Rampla Juniors 1 Tacuarembo 0.
Oct 17: Penarol 2 Nacional 1; Rentistas 1 Huracan Buceo 2; Bella Vista P 1 Cerro 1; River Plate 2 Liverpool 2.
Oct 22: Defensor 4 Dep Maldonado 1.
Oct 23: Cerro 0 Penarol 0; Bella Vista M 1 Rampla Juniors 3.
Oct 24: Nacional 2 River Plate 2; Tacuarembo 1 Bella Vista P 2; Liverpool 2 Frontera Rivera 3; Huracan Buceo 1 Danubio 3.

CLOSING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	14	12	2	0	47	12	38
Nacional	14	9	2	3	30	17	29
Danubio	14	8	4	2	25	16	28
Defensor	14	7	4	3	20	14	25
Huracan Buceo	14	7	3	4	17	17	24
Liverpool	14	5	5	4	18	12	20
River Plate	14	5	5	4	22	21	20
Bella Vista M	14	5	4	5	21	23	19
Frontera Rivera	14	5	2	7	23	22	17
Cerro	14	4	4	6	13	17	16
Bella Vista P	14	3	6	5	16	26	15
Rampla Juniors	14	5	0	9	19	31	15
Dep Maldonado	14	3	5	6	17	29	14
Tacuarembo	14	0	4	10	8	20	4
Rentistas	14	0	4	10	8	27	4

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 10: Caracas 3 Dep Tachira 3; Nacional 0 Ital-Chacao 1; Llaneros 2 Estudiantes 4; FCU-ULA 2 Mineros Guayana 1; Inter El Vigia 2 Zulianos 0; Trujillanos 2 Carabobo 0.
Oct 24: Ital-Chacao 2 Estudiantes 3; FCU-ULA 1 Caracas 1; Carabobo 0 Nacional 2; Dep Tachira 3 Inter El Vigia 1; Mineros Guayana 1 Trujillanos 1; Zulianos 1 Llaneros 0.

VENEZUELA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Tachira	12	8	3	1	20	10	27
Trujillanos	12	6	4	2	18	10	22
Caracas	12	5	6	1	20	12	21
Mineros Guayana	12	5	5	2	15	14	20
Estudiantes	12	5	3	4	27	17	18
Ital-Chacao	12	4	6	2	14	8	18
Nacional	12	3	5	4	13	19	14
Zulianos	12	3	3	6	13	17	12
Carabobo	12	2	5	5	12	16	11
FCU-ULA	12	2	4	6	15	24	10
Llaneros	12	1	6	5	15	21	9
Inter El Vigia	12	2	2	8	14	28	8

CONCACAF

MEXICO

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Oct 8: Tecos UAG 2 Tigres 0.
Oct 9: Toluca 5 Atletico Celaya 2; Monterrey 0 Atlas 4; Cruz Azul 2 Toros Neza 0.
Oct 10: Guadalajara 2 Necaxa 1; Atletico Morelia 6 Pumas UNAM 2; Atlante 2 Leon 1; Santos 1 Puebla 4.
Oct 12: Pachuca 2 America 1.
Oct 13: Atlas 3 Toluca 2.
Oct 16: Necaxa 3 Pumas UNAM 3; Tigres 0 Santos 0; Atletico Celaya 4 Monterrey 0; Puebla 0 Atletico Morelia 0.
Oct 17: Guadalajara 0 Atlante 1; Leon 2 Toluca 5; Toros Neza 1 Pachuca 0; America 4 Tecos UAG 0.
Oct 20: Necaxa 0 Atletico Morelia 2; America 1 Cruz Azul 3.
Oct 22: Tecos UAG 3 Toros Neza 2.
Oct 23: Toluca 1 Guadalajara 0; Monterrey 3 Leon 0; Cruz Azul 1 Atletico Celaya 1.
Oct 24: Pumas UNAM 1 Puebla 3; Pachuca 2 Atlas 2; Atletico Morelia 1 Tigres 1; Atlante 0 Necaxa 2; Santos 0 America 1.
Oct 30: Tigres 3 Pumas UNAM 1; Puebla 2 Necaxa 1; Atlante 2 Toluca 2; Atletico Celaya 1 Pachuca 0; Atlas 2 Tecos UAG 0.
Oct 31: Leon 1 Cruz Azul 0; Guadalajara 2 Monterrey 1; Toros Neza 1 Santos 1; America 1 Atletico Morelia 1.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	13	9	2	2	32	16	29
Tecos UAG	13	5	2	6	19	26	17
Pumas UNAM	13	3	3	7	22	29	12
Leon	13	3	3	7	14	25	12
Toros Neza	13	3	3	7	15	29	12

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	13	6	4	3	19	11	22
Puebla	13	4	4	5	15	15	16
Atletico Morelia	13	4	4	5	20	21	16
Atletico Celaya	13	4	4	5	17	21	16
Monterrey	13	4	1	8	22	28	13

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	13	7	5	1	33	14	26
America	13	7	3	3	27	13	24
Atlante	13	3	7	3	16	17	16
Santos Laguna	13	3	4	6	19	29	13

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	13	7	2	4	16	14	23
Necaxa	13	6	2	5	25	20	20
Pachuca	13	6	1	6	21	24	19
Tigres	13	4	4	5	19	19	16

USA

Oct 6: DC United 2 Tampa Bay Mutiny 4; Colorado Rapids 0 Chicago Fire 1; San Jose Clash 1 Kansas City Wizards 0.
Oct 9: DC United 1 New England 1 *New England on shoot-outs*; Miami Fusion 2 Colorado Rapids 0; Kansas City Wizards 0 LA Galaxy 1.
Oct 10: Columbus Crew 2 Chicago Fire 2 *Chicago on shoot-outs*; Tampa Bay Mutiny 1 Dallas Burn 2.

EASTERN CONFERENCE – FINAL

	P	W	SW	L	F	A	Pts
DC United	32	17	6	9	65	43	57
Columbus Crew	32	13	6	13	48	39	45
Tampa Bay Mutiny	32	9	5	18	51	50	32
Miami Fusion	32	8	5	19	42	59	29
New England	32	7	5	20	38	53	26
MetroStars	32	4	3	25	32	64	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE – FINAL

	P	W	SW	L	F	A	Pts
LA Galaxy	32	17	3	12	49	29	54
Dallas Burn	32	16	3	13	54	35	51
Chicago Fire	32	15	3	14	51	36	48
Colorado Rapids	32	14	6	12	38	39	48
San Jose Clash	32	9	10	13	48	49	37
Kansas City	32	6	2	24	33	53	20

SW = shoot-out win (1pt). Top four from each group qualified for the semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS

(best of three)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Oct 16: DC United 2 Miami Fusion 0.
Oct 24: Miami Fusion 0 DC United 0
DC United on shoot-outs; they win series 2-0.
Oct 17: Columbus Crew 2 Tampa Bay Mutiny 0.
Oct 22: Tampa Bay Mutiny 0 Columbus Crew 2.
Columbus win series 2-0.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Oct 16: Dallas Burn 2 Chicago Fire 1.
Oct 23: Chicago Fire 4 Dallas Burn 0.
Oct 27: Dallas Burn 3 Chicago Fire 2.
Dallas win series 2-1.
Oct 17: LA Galaxy 3 Colorado Rapids 0.
Oct 24: Colorado Rapids 0 LA Galaxy 2.
LA Galaxy win series 2-0.

FINALS

(best of three)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Oct 31: DC United 2 Columbus Crew 1.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Oct 31: LA Galaxy 2 Dallas Burn 1.

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

QUARTER-FINALS

Group A

Oct 9: Shooting Stars (Nig) 1 Raja Casablanca (Mor) 0.
Oct 10: Al Ahly (Egy) 2 Hearts of Oak (Gha) 0.
Oct 21: Al Ahly 4 Shooting Stars 1.
Oct 23: Hearts of Oak 0 Raja Casablanca 0.
Nov 7: Raja Casablanca 1 Al Ahly 1; Shooting Stars 2 Hearts of Oak 2.

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Raja Casablanca	6	3	2	1	4	2	11
Al Ahly	6	3	1	2	7	5	10
Hearts of Oak	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
Shooting Stars	6	1	1	4	6	13	4

Group B

Oct 10: Saint-Louisienne (Reu) 0 Esperance (Tun) 2; Dynamos (Zim) 2 ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 1.
Oct 24: ASEC Abidjan 1 Esperance 0; Dynamos 7 Saint-Louisienne 2.
Nov 7: Esperance 1 Dynamos 0; Saint-Louisienne 0 ASEC Abidjan 0.

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	6	5	0	1	13	1	10
ASEC Abidjan	6	3	1	2	6	1	10
Dynamos	6	2	0	4	9	9	6
Saint-Louisienne	6	1	1	4	4	17	3

CUP-WINNERS CUP

SEMI-FINALS

1st legs Oct 10; 2nd legs Oct 23-24
Club Africain (Tun) 0 Al Masry (Egy) 0
Al Masry 0 Club Africain 4
Club Africain 4-0 on agg.
Africa Sports (IvC) 3 Orlando Pirates (SAf) 1
Orlando Pirates 3 Africa Sports 1
Agg 4-4. Africa Sports 3-0 on pens.

CAF CUP

SEMI-FINALS

1st legs Oct 10; 2nd legs Oct 24
Etoile Sahel (Tun) 2 Zamalek (Egy) 0
Zamalek 3 Etoile Sahel 1
Agg 3-3. Etoile Sahel on away goals.
Canon Yaounde (Cam) 1 Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 1
Wydad Casablanca 1 Canon Yaounde 1
Agg 2-2. Wydad Casablanca 6-5 on pens.

ASIA

CHAMPIONS CUP

SECOND ROUND

WEST ASIA ZONE

1st leg
Oct 22: Pirouzi (Irn) 3 Al Ansar (Leb) 0.

EAST ASIA ZONE

1st legs
Oct 2: The Cong (Vie) 1 Suwon Bluewings (SKo) 1.
Oct 9: Jubilo Iwata (Jap) 8 Mohun Bagan (Ind) 0.

2nd legs
Oct 16: Suwon Bluewings 6 The Cong 0
Suwon Bluewings 7-1 on agg.
Oct 23: Kashima Antlers (Jap) 16 Valencia (Mdv) 0
1st leg cancelled due to bad ground conditions; Kashima go through on the result of the single game.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

SECOND ROUND

EAST ASIA ZONE

1st legs
Oct 2: Shanghai Shenhua (Chn) 0 Shimizu S-Pulse (Jap) 0; Ho Chi Minh (Vie) 1 South China (HK) 1.

2nd legs
Oct 14: South China 3 Ho Chi Minh 0
South China 4-1 on agg.
Oct 16: Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Shanghai Shenhua 0
Shimizu 2-0 on agg.

Walkover: Anyang LG Cheetahs (SKo) – *Sembawang Rangers (Sin) withdrew.*

SQUAD LISTS 1999-2000

ITALY

BARI

GOALKEEPERS

30	Attilio GREGORI	04.10.65
12	Giovanni INDIVERI	29.09.74
1	Francesco MANCINI	10.10.68

DEFENDERS

3	Alessandro DEL GROSSO	27.08.72
4	Gaetano DE ROSA	10.05.73
23	Alessio DE STEFANI	06.09.79
6	Matteo FERRARI	05.12.79
2	Luigi GARZJA	07.07.69
13	Duccio INNOCENTI	20.09.75
5	Michael MADSEN (Den)	24.01.74
28	Rachid NEQROUZ (Mor)	10.04.72
20	Hany SAID (Sau)	22.04.80
27	Lorenzo SIBILANO	10.07.78

MIDFIELDERS

8	Daniel ANDERSSON (Swe)	28.08.77
15	Antonio BELLAVISTA	19.11.77
7	Gregory CAMPI (Fra)	24.02.76
29	Carlo CARDASCIO	06.11.79
25	Mattia COLLAUTO	10.11.73
21	Rodolfo GIORGETTI	19.08.71
16	Antonio LAFORTEZZA	01.04.82
10	Michele MARCOLINI	02.10.75
22	Diego Fernando MARKIC (Arg)	09.01.77
14	Davide OLIVARES	21.06.71
17	Simone PERROTTA	17.09.77

FORWARDS

18	Antonio CASSANO	12.07.82
19	Raphael CHUKWU (Nig)	22.07.75
26	Hugo ENYINNAYA (Nig)	08.05.81
31	Miguel GUERRERO (Col)	07.09.67
11	Philemon MASINGA (SAf)	28.06.69
9	Yksel OSMANOVSKI (Swe)	24.02.77
24	Gionatha SPINESI	09.03.78

COACH

Eugenio FASCETTI

BOLOGNA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Andrea FERRARI	15.06.77
1	Gianluca PAGLIUCA	18.12.66
12	Marco ROCCATI	01.07.75

DEFENDERS

2	Giovanni BIA	24.10.68
13	Nicola BOSELLI	12.07.72
16	Giulio FALCONE	31.05.74
17	Teddy LUCIC (Swe)	15.04.73
24	John MENSAH (Gha)	29.11.82
19	Massimo PAGANIN	19.07.70
3	Michele PARAMATTI	10.03.68
20	Pierre Nlend WOME (Cam)	26.03.79

MIDFIELDERS

21	Jonatan BINOTTO	22.01.75
15	ERIBERTO Da Silva (Bra)	21.01.79
8	Klas INGESON (Swe)	20.08.68
5	Giancarlo MAROCCHI	04.07.65
7	Carlo NERVO	29.10.71
6	Massimo TARANTINO	20.05.71
4	Jose Marcelo ZE ELIAS (Bra)	25.09.76

FORWARDS

25	Giacomo CIPRIANI	28.10.80
23	Fausto FERRARI	09.03.80
18	Davide FONTOLAN	24.02.66
11	Igor KOLYVANOV (Rus)	06.03.68
14	Christophe SANCHEZ (Fra)	04.10.72
10	Giuseppe SIGNORI	17.02.68
9	Nicola VENTOLA	24.05.78

COACH

Francesco GUIDOLIN

CAGLIARI

GOALKEEPERS

22	Christian CHESSARI	24.04.81
12	Maurizio FRANZONE	25.05.69
1	Alessio SCARPI	19.04.73

DEFENDERS

2	Nicola DILISO	10.10.74
3	Gianluca GRASSADONIA	20.05.72
6	Diego LOPEZ (Uru)	22.08.74
13	Fabio MACELLARI	23.08.74
24	Francois MODESTO (Fra)	19.08.78
	David NYATHI (SAf)	22.03.69
20	Giovanni SULCIS	17.06.75
4	Matteo VILLA	23.01.70
15	Jonathan ZEBINA (Fra)	19.07.78

MIDFIELDERS

18	Nelson ABEIJON (Uru)	21.07.73
19	Raffaele AMETRANO	15.02.73
14	Daniele BERRETTA	08.03.72
27	Davide CARRUS	19.03.79
5	Gianni CAVEZZI	07.08.69
11	Daniele CONTI	09.01.79
8	Tiziano DE PATRE	18.12.68
25	Moustapha KEITA (Fra)	11.05.80
7	Jason MAYELE (Fra)	04.01.71
26	Emiliano MELIS	03.03.79
10	Fabian O'NEILL (Uru)	14.10.73
28	Giovanni SORO	08.08.80

FORWARDS

21	Bernardo CORRADI	30.03.76
9	Patrick MBOMA (Cam)	15.11.70
33	Domenico MORFEO	16.01.76
30	Luis OLIVEIRA (Blg)	24.03.69
16	Andrea PISANU	15.01.82
29	David SUAZO (Hon)	05.11.79

COACH

Renzo ULIVIERI

FIORENTINA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Gian Matteo MAREGGINI	08.01.67
12	Giuseppe TAGLIALATELA	02.01.69
1	Francesco TOLDO	02.12.71

DEFENDERS

4	Daniele ADANI	10.07.74
6	Aldo FIRICANO	12.03.67
17	Jorg HEINRICH (Ger)	06.12.69
32	Marco MUGNAINI	11.03.81
5	Pasquale PADALINO	26.07.72
23	Alessandro PIERINI	22.03.73
2	Tomas REPKA (Cze)	02.01.74
27	Andrea TAROZZI	17.10.73
3	Moreno TORRICELLI	23.01.70

MIDFIELDERS

7	Guillermo AMOR (Spa)	04.12.67
24	Christian AMOROSO	02.09.76
21	Mauro BRESSAN	05.01.71
14	Sandro COIS	09.06.72
16	Angelo DI LIVIO	26.07.66
35	Roberto MUSSO	17.06.80
15	Paul OKON (Aus)	05.04.72
13	Luigi PAGLIUCA	29.08.79
11	Fabio ROSSITTO	21.09.71
10	Manuel RUI COSTA (Por)	29.03.72

FORWARDS

18	Abel BALBO (Arg)	01.06.66
9	Gabriel BATISTUTA (Arg)	01.02.69
20	Enrico CHIESA	29.12.70
8	Predrag MIJATOVIC (Yug)	19.01.69
31	Riccardo TADDEI	05.09.80

COACH

Giovanni TRAPATTONI

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS

22	Fabrizio FERRON	05.09.65
12	Giorgio FREZZOLINI	21.07.76
1	Angelo PERUZZI	16.02.70

DEFENDERS

5	Laurent BLANC (Fra)	19.11.65
26	Zoumana CAMARA	03.04.79
3	Francesco COLONNESE	10.08.71
17	Cyril DOMORAUD (Fra)	22.07.71
11	Salvatore FRESI	16.01.73
30	Fabio GALANTE	20.11.73
2	Christian PANUCCI	12.04.73
25	Martin RIVAS (Uru)	10.02.77
13	Dario SIMIC (Cro)	12.11.75
27	Taribo WEST (Nig)	26.03.74

MIDFIELDERS

15	Benoit CAUET (Fra)	02.05.69
14	Ousmane DABO (Fra)	08.02.77
23	Luigi DI BIAGIO	03.06.71
31	Grigoris GEORGATOS (Gre)	31.10.72
8	Vladimir JUGOVIC (Yug)	30.08.69
7	Francesco MORIERO	31.03.69
21	Andrea PIRLO	19.07.79
6	Paulo SOUSA (Por)	30.08.70
4	Javier ZANETTI (Arg)	18.08.73

FORWARDS

10	Roberto BAGGIO	18.02.67
20	Alvaro RECOBA (Uru)	17.03.76
9	RONALDO (Bra)	22.09.76
32	Christian VIERI	12.07.73
18	Ivan ZAMORANO (Chl)	18.01.67

COACH

Marcello LIPPI

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS

22	Andreas ISAKSSON (Swe)	03.10.81
12	Michelangelo RAMPULLA	10.08.62
1	Edwin VAN DER SAR (Hol)	29.10.70

DEFENDERS

15	Alessandro BIRINDELLI	12.11.74
2	Ciro FERRARA	11.02.67
13	Mark IULIANO	12.08.73
3	Zoran MIRKOVIC (Yug)	21.09.71
4	Paolo MONTERO (Uru)	03.09.71
7	Gianluca PESSOTTO	11.08.70
28	Igor TUDOR (Cro)	16.04.78

MIDFIELDERS

14	Jonathan BACHINI	05.06.75
8	Antonio CONTE	31.07.69
26	Edgar DAVIDS (Hol)	13.03.73
5	Sunday OLISEH (Nig)	14.09.74
27	Marco RIGONI	05.01.80
20	Alessio TACCHINARDI	23.07.75

23	Gianluca ZAMBROTTA	19.02.77
21	Zinedine ZIDANE (Fra)	23.06.72

FORWARDS

16	Nicola AMORUSO	29.08.74
10	Alessandro DEL PIERO	09.11.74
19	Juan Eduardo ESNAIDER (Arg)	05.03.73
11	Daniel FONSECA (Uru)	13.09.69
9	Filippo INZAGHI	09.08.73
18	Darko KOVACEVIC (Yug)	18.11.73

COACH

Carlo ANCELOTTI

LAZIO

GOALKEEPERS

22	Marco BALLOTTA	03.04.64
12	Emanuele CONCETTI	03.06.78
1	Luca MARCHEGIANI	22.02.66

DEFENDERS

3	Stefano DI FIORDO	05.02.80
24	Manuel FERNANDO COUTO (Por)	02.08.69
5	Giuseppe FAVALLI	08.01.72
11	Sinisa MIHAJLOVIC (Yug)	20.02.69
2	Paolo NEGRO	16.04.72
13	Alessandro NESTA	19.03.76
15	Giuseppe PANCARO	26.08.71
6	Nestor SENSINI (Arg)	12.10.66

MIDFIELDERS

25	Matias ALMEYDA (Arg)	21.12.73
26	Gasperino CINELLI	03.01.82
17	Guerino GOTTARDI	18.12.70
16	Attilio LOMBARDO	06.01.66
4	Dario MARCOLIN	28.10.71
18	Pavel NEDVED (Cze)	30.08.72
27	Giampiero PINZI	11.03.81
7	SERGIO CONCEICAO (Por)	15.11.74
14	Diego SIMEONE (Arg)	28.04.70
20	Dejan STANKOVIC (Yug)	11.09.78
23	Juan Sebastian VERON (Arg)	09.03.75

FORWARDS

19	Kennet ANDERSSON (Swe)	06.10.67
8	Alen BOKSIC (Cro)	21.01.70
21	Simone INZAGHI	05.04.76
10	Roberto MANCINI	27.11.64
9	Marcelo SALAS (Chl)	24.12.74

COACH

Sven Goran ERIKSSON

LECCE

GOALKEEPERS

25	Ivan AIARDI	16.01.71
1	Antonio CHIMENTI	30.06.70
35	Fabrizio LORIERI	11.02.64
12	Massimo LOTTI	07.03.69

DEFENDERS

30	David BALLERI	28.03.69
3	Gianluca COLONNELLO	08.02.73
20	Jean-Pierre CYPRIEN (Gdp)	12.02.69
28	Marco DE BRACO	07.01.79
2	JUAREZ de Souza Texeira	
27	Matteo PIVOTTO	05.09.74
5	Alberto SAVINO	01.09.73
6	Martino TRAVERSA	06.02.74
23	William VIALI	16.11.74

MIDFIELDERS

16	Claudio BONOMI	28.12.72
24	Christian CIMARELLI	06.11.75
8	Alessandro CONTICCHIO	19.01.74
21	Alessandro DE POLI	07.10.69
22	Domenico DI CARLO	23.03.64
18	Alessandro DOGA	15.10.75
26	Mark EDUSEI (Gha)	29.09.76
10	Francisco Gouvinho LIMA (Bra)	17.04.71
19	Ricardo MASPERO	19.02.70
13	Angelo PARADISO	14.02.77
17	Cristiano PAVONE	28.06.72
4	Luigi PIANGERELLI	19.10.73
14	Giovanni RUTZITTU	01.02.76

FORWARDS

15	Sergii ATELKIN (Ukr)	08.01.72
11	Emiliano BILIOTTI	30.09.74
29	Renato GRECO	20.01.69
9	Cristiano LUCARELLI	04.10.75
7	Davide SESA	10.07.73

COACH

Alberto CAVASIN

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS

12	Christian ABBIATI	08.07.77
40	Valerio FIORI	27.04.69
1	Sebastiano ROSSI	20.07.64

DEFENDERS

14	Roberto AYALA (Arg)	12.04.73
5	Alessandro COSTACURTA	24.04.66
36	Michele FERRI	29.05.81
3	Paolo MALDINI	26.06.68
25	Bruno N'GOTTY (Fra)	10.06.71
28	Mirko SADOTTI	18.05.75
26	Luigi SALA	21.02.74
27	Sergio Claudio SERGINHO (Bra)	27.06.71
29	Carlo TEODORANI	12.04.77
16	Max TONETTO	18.11.74

MIDFIELDERS

4	Demetrio ALBERTINI	23.08.71
23	Massimo AMBROSINI	29.05.77
13	Ibrahim BA (Fra)	12.11.73
10	Zvonimir BOBAN (Cro)	08.10.68
15	Diego DE ASCENTIS	31.07.76
8	Gennaro GATTUSO	09.01.78
21	Federico GIUNTI	06.08.71
24	Andres GUGLIELMINPIETRO (Arg)	14.04.74
2	Thomas HELVEG (Den)	24.06.71
18	LEONARDO Nascimento de Araujo (Bra)	05.09.69
19	Pierluigi ORLANDINI	09.10.72

FORWARDS

33	Mohammed ALIYU-DATI (Nig)	14.03.82
20	Oliver BIERHOFF (Ger)	01.05.68
11	Maurizio GANZ	13.10.68
30	Mattia GRAFFIEDI	26.05.80
7	Andrii SHEVCHENKO (Ukr)	29.09.76
9	George WEAH (Lib)	01.10.66

COACH

Alberto ZACCHERONI

PARMA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gianluigi BUFFON	28.01.78
12	Matteo GUARDALBEN	05.06.74
22	Davide MICILLO	17.04.71

DEFENDERS

5	Luigi APOLLONI	02.05.67
3	Antonio BENARRIVO	21.08.68
17	Fabio CANNAVARO	13.09.73
6	Saliou LASSISSI (Fra)	15.08.78
2	Luigi SARTOR	30.01.75
23	Michele SERENA	10.03.70
21	Lilian THURAM (Fra)	01.01.72
19	Stefano TORRISI	07.05.71
24	Paolo VANOLI	12.08.72

MIDFIELDERS

8	Dino BAGGIO	24.07.71
14	Alain BOGHOSSIAN (Fra)	27.10.70
4	Roberto BREDA	21.10.69
7	Diego FUSER	11.11.68
15	Raffaele LONGO	06.09.77
18	Giampiero MAINI	29.09.71
26	Jhonnier MONTANO (Col)	14.01.83
10	Ariel ORTEGA (Arg)	04.03.74
13	Mario STANIC (Cro)	10.04.72
27	Pietro STRADA	11.12.69
25	Johan WALEM (Blg)	01.02.72

FORWARDS

11	Marcio AMOROSO (Bra)	05.07.74
9	Hernan CRESPO (Arg)	05.07.75
20	Marco DI VAIO	15.07.76

COACH

Alberto MALESANI

PERUGIA

GOALKEEPERS

24	Juan Carlos DOCABO (Arg)	14.12.70
1	Andrea MAZZANTINI	11.07.68
12	Angelo PAGOTTO	21.11.73

DEFENDERS

6	Alessandro CALORI	29.08.66
2	Daniele DAINO	08.09.79
	Gabriele GROSSI	11.02.72
14	Paulino Neves HILARIO (Por)	15.05.74
23	Marco MATERAZZI	19.08.73
3	Mauro MILANESE	19.09.71
	Diego PELLEGRINI	21.11.70
13	Roberto RIPA	29.10.67
15	Claudio RIVALTA	30.06.78
	Sean SOGLIANO	28.02.71
16	Andrea SUSSI	23.10.73

MIDFIELDERS

18	Pierpaolo BISOLI	20.11.66
19	Jorge BOLANO (Col)	28.04.77
21	Sergio CAMPOLO	23.02.72
7	Hidetoshi NAKATA (Jap)	22.01.77
4	Renato OLIVE	06.04.71
10	Giovanni TEDESCO	13.05.72
	Davide TENTONI	25.10.70

FORWARDS

8	Massimiliano ESPOSITO	27.05.72
9	Stefano GUIDONI	27.10.71
5	Alessandro MELLI	11.12.69
11	Milan RAPAJIC (Cro)	16.08.73
20	Hector TAPIA (Chl)	30.09.77

COACH

Carlo MAZZONE

PIACENZA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Davide BAGNACANI	08.01.80
12	Michele NICOLETTI	08.04.77
1	Flavio ROMA	21.06.74

DEFENDERS

16	Giordano CAINI	28.03.69
15	Daniele DELLI CARRI	18.09.71
2	Gianluca LAMACCHI	28.01.72
6	Alessandro LUCARELLI	22.07.77
24	Andrea MACCAGNI	29.05.80
21	Gian Paolo MANIGHETTI	24.01.69
3	Cleto POLONIA	04.09.68
18	Stefano SACCHETTI	10.08.72
5	Pietro VIERCHOWOD	06.04.59

MIDFIELDERS

14	Renato BUSO	19.12.69
8	Paolo CRISTALLINI	20.09.71
4	Alessandro MAZZOLA	15.06.69
17	Stefano MORRONE	26.10.78
10	Giovanni STROPPA	24.01.68
25	Andrea TAGLIAFERRI	27.07.78

FORWARDS

23	Arturo DI NAPOLI	18.04.74
9	Davide DIONIGI	10.01.74
13	Alberto GILARDINO	05.07.82
20	Giampietro PIOVANI	12.06.68
7	Massimo RASTELLI	27.12.68
11	Ruggiero RIZZITELLI	02.09.67
19	Francesco ZERBINI	26.10.79

COACH

Luigi SIMONI

REGGINA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Emanuele BELARDI	09.10.77
12	Antonio CASTELLI	09.11.80
1	Paolo ORLANDONI	12.08.72

DEFENDERS

5	Bruno CIRILLO	21.03.77
18	Paolo FOGLIO	08.09.75
14	Simone GIACCHETTA	28.07.69
4	Arnauld MERCIER (Fra)	04.06.72
6	Giovanni MORABITO	26.01.78
19	Joseph Dayo OSHADOGAN	27.06.76
15	Wladimiro SBAGLIA	01.01.79
21	Lorenzo STOVINI	24.11.76
17	Salvatore VICARI	31.01.81

MIDFIELDERS

8	Roberto BARONIO	11.12.77
23	Andrea BERNINI	10.06.73
20	Ezio BREVI	20.01.70
10	Francesco COZZA	19.01.74
25	Serge DIE (IvC)	04.10.77
24	Riccardo MARROCOLO	22.05.79
7	Tonino MARTINO	13.06.69
13	Giandomenico MESTO	25.05.82
3	Maurizio POLI	14.01.64
29	Nenad PRALIJA (Cro)	11.12.70

FORWARDS

16	Massimo CAMPO	15.04.75
9	Alessandro IANNUZZI	09.10.75
2	Mohamed KALLON (SLe)	06.10.79
11	Davide POSSANZINI	09.02.76
28	Enrique REGGI (Arg)	28.05.73

COACH

Franco COLOMBA

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Francesco ANTONIOLI	14.09.69
12	Cristiano LUPATELLI	21.06.78

DEFENDERS

6	ALDAIR Nascimento dos Santos (Bra)	30.11.65
2	Marcos Evangelista CAFU (Bra)	07.06.70
32	Vincent CANDELA (Fra)	24.10.73
20	Amadeo MANGONE	12.07.68
30	Fabio PETRUZZI	24.10.70
29	Marco QUADRINI	30.01.79
23	Alessandro RINALDI	23.11.74
3	Antonio Carlos ZAGO (Bra)	18.05.70

MIDFIELDERS

8	Dmitri ALENICHEV (Rus)	20.10.72
13	Manuele BLASI	17.08.80
11	Eusebio DI FRANCESCO	08.09.69
19	Sergei GURENKO (Bls)	30.09.72
5	MARCOS dos Santos ASSUNCAO (Bra)	25.07.76
16	Ivan TOMIC (Yug)	05.01.76
17	Damiano TOMMASI	17.05.74
4	Cristiano ZANETTI	14.04.77

FORWARDS

7	Gustavo BARTELT (Arg)	02.09.74
25	Lambros CHOUTOS (Gre)	07.12.79
24	Marco DELVECCHIO	07.04.73
27	FABIO JUNIOR Perreira (Bra)	20.11.77
18	Alessandro FRAU	02.04.77
14	Carmine GAUTIERI	20.07.70
9	Vincenzo MONTELLA	18.06.74
33	NESAT Gulunoglu (Tur)	04.01.79
10	Francesco TOTTI	27.09.76

COACH

Fabio CAPELLO

TORINO

GOALKEEPERS

25	Luca Bucci	13.03.69
22	Alessandro Nista	
1	Luca Pastine	01.02.71

DEFENDERS

6	Mauro BONOMI	23.08.72
32	Andrea CITTERIO	10.07.75
3	Francesco COCO	08.01.77
24	Gianluca COMOTTO	16.10.78
4	Andre CRUZ (Bra)	20.09.68
26	Marco CUDINI	01.09.73
29	Erik EDMAN (Swe)	08.11.78
5	Roberto MALTAGLIATI	07.04.69
30	Lorenzo MINOTTI	08.02.67
31	Luigi PANARELLI	26.04.76

MIDFIELDERS

7	Antonio ASTA	17.11.70
10	Massimo BRAMBILLA	04.03.73
18	Massimo CRIPPA	17.05.65
27	Dijbril DIAWARA (Fra)	03.01.75
16	Massimo FICCADENTI	06.11.67
28	Marcus LANTZ (Swe)	23.10.75
8	Gianluigi LENTINI	27.03.69
2	Gustavo MENDEZ (Uru)	03.02.71
13	Fabio PECCHIA	24.08.73
20	Marco SANNA	27.12.69
14	Alessio SCARCHILLI	10.09.72
19	Vincenzo SCOMMESE	22.06.76
15	Fabio TRICARICO	27.11.69

FORWARDS

11	Edoardo ARTISTICO	16.06.69
9	Marco FERRANTE	04.02.71
	Felice FOGLIA	14.01.77
21	Ilija IVIC (Yug)	17.02.71
23	Andrea SILENZI	10.02.66

COACH

Emiliano MONDONICO

UDINESE

GOALKEEPERS

22	Morgan DE SANCTIS	26.03.77
12	Olivier RENARD (Blg)	24.05.79
1	Luigi TURCI	27.01.70

DEFENDERS

4	Valerio BERTOTTO	15.01.73
6	Mohammed GARGO (Gha)	19.06.75
13	Regis GENAUX (Blg)	31.08.73
27	Thomas MANFREDINI	27.05.80
25	Mauricio PINEDA (Arg)	13.07.75
5	Andrea SOTTIL	04.01.74
3	Delio Cesar TOLEDO (Par)	10.02.76
30	Marco ZAMBONI	07.12.77
15	Marco ZANCHI	15.04.77

MIDFIELDERS

	Stephen APPIAH (Gha)	24.12.80
21	Maurizio BEDIN	09.02.79
23	Morten BISGAARD (Den)	25.06.74
7	Stefano FIORE	17.04.75
16	Giuliano GIANNICHEDDA	21.09.74
14	Jorge Henrique Amaral de Castro, JORGINHO (Bra)	20.02.80
10	Tomas LOCATELLI	09.06.76
24	David PIZARRO (Chl)	10.09.79
8	Henry VAN DER VEGT (Hol)	18.02.72

FORWARDS

18	Mauro ESPOSITO	13.06.79
19	Martin JORGENSEN (Den)	06.10.75
29	Massimo MARGIOTTA	27.07.77
20	Roberto MUZZI	21.09.71
11	Paolo POGGI	16.02.71
9	Roberto SOSA (Arg)	24.01.75
28	Silva dos Santos WARLEY (Bra)	13.02.78

COACH

Luigi DE CANIO

VENEZIA

GOALKEEPERS

12	Francesco BENUSSI	15.10.81
22	Fabrizio CASAZZA	16.09.70
1	Michael KONSEL (Aut)	06.03.62

DEFENDERS

27	Stefano BETTARINI	06.02.72
16	Mauro BIANCHI	19.01.80
18	Fabio Da Silva BILICA (Bra)	04.01.79
23	Emanuele BRIOSCHI	23.06.75
24	Giuseppe CARDONE	03.03.74
2	Daniele CARNASCIALI	06.09.66
3	Alessandro DAL CANTO	10.03.75
5	Gianluca LUPPI	23.08.66
6	Simone PAVAN	29.04.74

MIDFIELDERS

21	Runar BERG (Nor)	07.10.70
20	Ivone DE FRANCESCHI	01.01.74
4	Giuseppe IACHINI	07.05.64
13	Rosario LA MARCA	10.12.79
14	Nicola MARANGON	14.04.71
17	Salvatore MICELI	05.03.74
7	Hiroshi NANAMI (Jap)	28.11.72
26	Francesco PEDONE	06.06.68
11	Fabian VALTOLINA	10.06.71
8	Sergio VOLPI	02.02.74

FORWARDS

15	Massimo BORGOBELLO	17.05.71
19	Igor BUDAN (Cro)	22.04.80
25	Francesco CIULLO	30.09.79
9	Filippo MANIERO	11.09.72
10	Dejan PETKOVIC	10.09.72

COACH

Giuseppe MATERAZZI

VERONA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Graziano BATTISTINI	30.09.70
17	Sebastien FREY (Fra)	18.03.80
12	Gianluca PEGOLO	25.03.81

DEFENDERS

16	Giuseppe ANASTASI	24.09.73
2	Aimo DIANA	02.01.78
3	Gianluca FALSINI	02.10.75
6	Natale GONNELLA	19.01.76
29	Martin LAURSEN	26.02.77
25	Luca MEZZANO	01.08.77
20	Anthony SERIC (Cro)	15.01.79
18	Tonci ZILIC (Cro)	26.02.75

MIDFIELDERS

23	Cristian BROCCHI	30.01.76
21	Leonardo COLUCCI	29.11.72
24	Giancarlo FILIPPINI	27.12.68
4	Marco FRANCESCHETTI	19.01.67
7	Marco GIANDEBIAGGI	01.02.69
15	Vincenzo ITALIANO	10.12.77
5	Antonio MARASCO	19.02.70
27	Martino MELIS	24.11.73
26	Alessandro PAGANO	14.02.72
8	Marco PIOVANELLI	07.04.74
19	Emiliano SALVETTI	01.01.74

FORWARDS

10	Martins Bolzan ADAILTON (Bra)	24.01.77
14	Alfredo AGLIETTI	16.09.70
11	Fabrizio CAMMARATA	30.08.75
28	Andrea COSSU	03.05.80
9	Robert SPEHAR (Cro)	13.05.70

COACH

Claudio PRANDELLI

SPAIN

ALAVES

GOALKEEPERS

1	Martin Horacio HERRERA (Arg)	13.09.70
25	Enrique Burgos Carrasco, KIKE	20.01.71
30	Jon PASCUA Ibarrola	25.07.72

DEFENDERS

26	BENITO Anguas Fanlo	30.01.74
21	Jose Ignacio BERRUET Michelena	23.04.73
2	Cosmin Marius CONTRA (Rom)	15.12.75
4	Dan EGGEN (Nor)	13.01.70
17	Raul GANAN Bermudez	20.12.74
3	IBON BEGONA Zubiaurre	17.11.73
22	Jose Tomas Valdomino, JOSETE	12.03.70
5	Antonio KARMONA Herrera	24.03.68
28	Pablo LUSARRETA Zabalza	04.09.76
6	Oscar TELLEZ Gomez	02.04.75
24	Victor Manuel TORRES MESTRE	31.12.70

MIDFIELDERS

8	Alejandro Fernandez Sama, ALEX	24.05.74
18	Martin Mauricio ASTUDILLO (Arg)	10.07.77
20	Jorge AZKOITIA Gabiola	27.04.74
16	Hermes Aldo DESIO (Arg)	20.01.70
29	Jesus HERRERA Lopez	09.03.75
14	Angel MORALES Cuerva	13.07.75
7	Joan Ribera Maso, NAN RIBERA	22.04.75
10	PABLO Gomez Ortiz de Guzman	21.05.70
27	Asier SALCEDO Borrega	09.04.80

FORWARDS

19	Javier Moreno Varela, JAVI MORENO	10.09.74
9	JULIO SALINAS Fernandez	11.09.62
23	Meho KODRO (Bos)	12.01.67
11	MAGNO Mocelin (Bra)	26.02.74

COACH

Jose Manuel Esnal, MANE

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS

27	Daniel ARANZUBIA Aguado	18.09.79
13	Imanol ETXEBERRIA Egana	27.03.73
26	Inaki LAFUENTE Sanchez	24.01.76

DEFENDERS

4	Rafael ALKORTA Martinez	16.09.68
12	CARLOS GARCIA Garcia	13.08.70
5	FELIPE Gurendez Aldanondo	18.11.75
15	Francisco (Patxi) FERREIRA Colmenero	22.05.67
14	Jose Maria Garcia Lafuente, JOSE MARI	10.02.71
11	Jesus Maria LACRUZ Gomez	25.04.78
21	Inigo LARRAINZAR Santamaria	05.06.71
10	Aitor LARRAZABAL Bilbao	21.06.71
19	Mikel LASA Goikoetxea	09.09.71
3	OSKAR VALES Varela	13.09.74
24	Roberto RIOS Patus	08.10.71
29	Iker URRACA Oliveira	26.06.79

MIDFIELDERS

18	Bittor ALKIZA Fernandez	26.10.70
23	Eduardo Alonso Alvarez, EDU ALONSO	30.05.74
8	Julen GUERRERO Lopez	07.01.74
7	Andoni IMAZ Garmendia	05.09.71
31	Roberto Martinez Ripodas, TIKO	15.09.76
6	Josu URRUTIA Telleria	10.04.68
28	Francisco Javier YESTE Navarro	06.12.79

FORWARDS

17	Joseba ETXEBERRIA Lizardi	05.09.77
9	Santiago EZQUERRO Marin	14.12.76
22	Javier Glez Gomez JAVI GONZALEZ	22.03.74
16	Arturo Igoroin Sanjurjo, SIVORI	14.09.76
20	Ismael URZAIZ Aranda	07.10.71

COACH

Luis FERNANDEZ

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jose Francisco MOLINA Gimenez	08.08.70
13	Antonio Jiminez Sistachs, TONI	12.10.70

DEFENDERS

15	Carlos AGUILERA Martin	22.05.69
22	Joan CAPDEVILA Mendez	02.03.78
2	Jose Antonio CHAMOT (Arg)	17.05.69
4	Carlos GAMARRA (Par)	17.02.71
26	GASPAR Galvez Burgos	07.07.79
21	GUSTAVO De la Parra Navarro	19.12.75
5	Juan Manuel LOPEZ Martinez	03.09.69
25	Leonel PILIPAUSKAS (Uru)	18.05.75
6	Santiago Denia Sanchez, SANTI	09.03.74
3	Antonio Munoz Gomez, TONI	04.02.68

MIDFIELDERS

8	Ruben BARAJA Vegas	11.07.75
24	Radek BEJBL (Cze)	29.08.72
12	HUGO Miguel Ribeiro LEAL (Por)	21.05.80
11	Jordi LARDIN Cruz	04.06.73
7	Veljko PAUNOVIC (Yug)	21.08.77
18	ROBERTO Fresnedoso Prieto	15.01.73
9	Santiago Hernan SOLARI (Arg)	07.10.76
16	Juan Carlos VALERON Santana	17.06.75
23	Giorgio VENTURIN (Ita)	09.07.68

FORWARDS

20	Fernando Edgardo CORREA (Uru)	06.01.74
17	Jimmy Floyd HASSELBAINK (Hol)	27.03.72
14	JOSE MARI Romero Payon	10.12.78
19	Francisco Narvaez Machon, KIKO	26.04.72

COACH

Claudio RANIERI

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS

25	Francesc ARNAU Grabulosa	23.03.75
1	Ruud HESP (Hol)	31.10.65
30	Jose Manuel REINA Paez	31.08.82

DEFENDERS

5	ABELARDO Fernandez Antuna	19.03.70
17	Winston BOGARDE (Hol)	22.10.70
22	Frank DE BOER (Hol)	15.05.70
3	Frederic DEHU (Fra)	24.10.72
32	Carles PUYOL Saforcada	13.04.78
2	Michael REIZIGER (Hol)	03.05.73
12	SERGI Barjuan Esclusa	28.12.71

MIDFIELDERS

14	Emmanuel AMUNIKE (Nig)	25.12.70
27	ARTETA	
8	Philip COCU (Hol)	29.10.70
6	Ronald DE BOER (Hol)	15.05.70
28	Gabriel Garcia de la Torre, GABRI	10.02.79
4	Josep GUARDIOLA Sala	18.01.71
10	Jari LITMANEN (Fin)	20.02.71
21	LUIS ENRIQUE Martinez Garcia	08.05.70
29	MARIO Alberto Rosas Montero	22.05.80
31	NANO	
26	Xavier Hernandez Creus, XAVI	25.01.80

FORWARDS

19	Daniel Garcia Lara, DANI	22.12.74
7	Luis Filipe Madeiria Caeiro, FIGO (Por)	04.11.72
9	Partrick KLUIVERT (Hol)	01.07.76
11	Vitor Barbosa Ferreira, RIVALDO (Bra)	19.04.72
20	SIMAO Pedro Fonseca Sabrosa (Por)	30.10.79
23	Boudewijn ZENDEN (Hol)	15.08.76

COACH

Louis VAN GAAL

BETIS SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Antoni PRATS Cervera	09.09.71
26	Antonio DOBLAS Santana	05.08.80
13	Joaquin Enrique VALERIO Olivera	12.01.73

DEFENDERS

12	Joaquin BORNES Rincon	25.05.75
24	Diego Sebastian CROSA (Arg)	18.04.76
2	Miroslav KARHAN (Slk)	21.06.76
3	LUIS FERNANDEZ Gutierrez	27.06.72
6	Juan MERINO Ruiz	24.08.70
14	Jorge OTERO Bouzas	28.01.69
29	David RIVAS Rodriguez	02.12.78
19	Roberto SOLOZABAL Villanueva	28.12.71
4	Juan Antonio Gonzalez URENA	13.12.67

MIDFIELDERS

7	ALEXIS Trujillo Oramas	30.07.65
21	BENJAMIN Zarandona Esono	02.03.76
10	Juan Jose CANAS	17.04.72
16	DENILSON de Oliveira (Bra)	24.08.77
23	Iulian FILIPESCU (Rom)	29.03.74
25	FINIDI George (Nig)	15.04.71
15	Antonio Alvarez Perez, ITO	21.01.75
28	JUAN JESUS Cabrera Rubio	31.03.77
8	Luis MARQUEZ Martin	01.11.71
17	Sebastian Ariel ROMERO (Arg)	27.04.78
27	Fernando VARELA Ramos	01.09.79

FORWARDS

11	ALFONSO Perez Munoz	26.09.72
20	Angel Manuel CUELLAR Llanos	13.09.72
22	Jose GALVEZ Estevez	03.08.74
9	Oliveiro Jesus Alvarez Gonzalez, OLI	02.04.72

COACH

Carlos Timoteo GRIGUOL

CELTA VIGO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Richard Philippe DUTRUEL (Fra)	24.12.72
13	Jose Manuel PINTO Colorado	08.11.75
26	ROBERTO Fernandez Alvalleros	25.01.79

DEFENDERS

15	ADRIANO Felix Texeira (Bra)	07.04.73
3	Rafael BERGES Martin	21.01.71
4	Francisco Gabriel CACERES (Arg)	07.02.69
24	Bruno Ricardo Mendoca De CAIRES (Por)	02.04.77
18	Pablo COIRA	18.10.79
19	Goran DJOROVIC (Yug)	11.11.71
14	Juan Francisco Garcia Garcia, JUANFRAN	15.07.76
21	SERGIO Fernandez Gonzalez	23.05.77
2	Juan VELASCO Damas	17.05.77

MIDFIELDERS

16	Albert CELADES Lopez	29.09.75
5	Everton GIOVANELLA (Bra)	13.09.70
27	JONATHAN Aspas Juncal	28.02.82
8	Valery KARPIN (Rus)	02.02.69
23	Claude MAKELELE (Fra)	18.02.73
6	Iomar do Nascimiento, MAZINHO (Bra)	08.04.66
10	Alexander MOSTOVOI (Rus)	22.08.68
9	Haim REVIVO (Isr)	22.02.72
7	TOMAS Alberto Hervas Giron	25.11.70

FORWARDS

11	GUSTAVO Adrian LOPEZ (Arg)	13.04.73
12	Ivan KAVIEDES (Ecu)	24.10.77
17	Benedict McCARTHY (SAf)	12.11.77
22	Mario Hector TURDO (Arg)	01.01.79

COACH

Victor FERNANDEZ Braulio

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

GOALKEEPERS

13	Petr KOUBA (Cze)	28.09.69
1	Jacques SONGO'O (Cam)	17.03.64

DEFENDERS

14	CESAR Martin Villar	02.04.77
17	Jose Manuel Menendez Herminia, MANEL	07.01.71
2	MANUEL PABLO Garcia Diaz	25.01.76
4	Noureddine NAYBET (Mor)	10.02.70
19	Luis Miguel RAMIS Monfort	25.07.70
3	Enrique Fernandez ROMERO	23.06.71
5	Gabriel SCHURRER Peralta (Arg)	16.08.71

MIDFIELDERS

8	Dialma Feitosa Dias, DJALMINHA (Bra)	09.12.70
20	DONATO Gama da Silva	30.12.62
25	FERNANDO Sanchez Cipitria	12.09.71
16	FLAVIO CONCEICAO (Bra)	12.06.74
10	Francisco Javier Gonzalez Perez, FRAN	14.07.69
21	JAIME Sanchez Fernandez	20.03.73
24	Slavisa JOKANOVIC (Yug)	16.08.68
22	JOSE MANUEL Colmenero Crespo	29.11.73
23	JOSE RAMON Gonzalez Perez	20.05.68
6	MAURO da SILVA Gomes (Bra)	12.01.68
12	Lionel Sebastian SCALONI (Arg)	16.05.78
18	VICTOR Sanchez del Amo	23.02.76

FORWARDS

15	IVAN Perez Munoz	29.01.76
7	Roy MAKAAY (Hol)	03.03.75
9	Pedro Miguel C. Resende, PAULETA (Por)	28.04.73
11	Jose Oscar 'TURU' FLORES (Arg)	16.05.71

COACH

Javier IRURETA

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS

26	Salvador BALBUENA Teruel	03.02.78
25	Pablo Oscar CAVALLERO (Arg)	13.04.74
1	Juan Luis MORA Palacios	12.07.73

DEFENDERS

6	Sergio CORINO Ramon	10.10.74
2	CRISTOBAL Parralo Aguilera	21.08.67
30	Alberto LOPO Garcia	05.05.80
4	Fernando Munoz Garcia, NANDO	30.10.67
5	Mauricio POCHETTINO Trossero (Arg)	02.03.72
3	Pablo Oscar ROTCHEN (Arg)	23.04.73
17	Cesar SANTIS Santander (Chl)	05.02.79

MIDFIELDERS

19	Moises Garcia Fernandez, ARTEAGA	01.09.69
14	Enrique DE LUCAS Martinez	17.08.78
15	Constantin GALCA (Rom)	08.03.72
29	Javier Lopez Fernandez, JAVI LOPEZ	08.10.78
21	Barasz MOLNAR (Hun)	01.10.77
18	Mauro Esteban NAVAS (Arg)	20.10.74
8	SERGIO Gonzalez Soriano	10.11.76
7	Antonio VELAMAZAN Tejedor	22.01.77

FORWARDS

10	Miguel Angel BENITEZ Pavon (Par)	19.05.70
20	Carlos Daniel CASARTELLI (Arg)	04.11.74
11	Martin Andres POSSE (Arg)	20.08.75
24	ROGER Garcia Junyent	15.12.76
9	Manuel SERRANO Pulido	10.09.72
23	Raul TAMUDO Montero	19.10.77

COACH

Miguel Angel BRINDISI

MALAGA

GOALKEEPERS

13	Pedro CONTRERAS Gonzalez	07.01.72
1	Rafael Gonzalez Robles, RAFA	25.10.70
25	Javier SANCHEZ BROTO	25.08.71

DEFENDERS

3	Francisco Javier Lopez BRAVO	06.04.74
4	Emmanuel DORADO (Fra)	28.03.73
19	FERNANDO SANZ Duran	01.01.74
21	Domingo LARRAINZAR Santamaria	08.09.69
2	Roberto ROJAS Gonzalez	17.11.74
5	Mikel ROTETA Lopetegi	16.01.70
12	Vicente VALCARCE Cano	19.10.74

MIDFIELDERS

22	Gonzalo DE LOS SANTOS (Uru)	16.10.68
6	Raul IZNATA Zabala	21.09.77
7	Jose Maria MOVILLA Cubero	08.02.78
11	Kiki MUSAMPA (Hol)	20.07.77
8	Francisco Manuel RUANO Bausan	16.07.74
18	Francisco Joaquin RUFETE	20.11.76
23	Carlos Alejandro Sierra Fumero, SANDRO	14.10.74
20	Ariel Silvio ZARATE Riga (Arg)	13.07.73

FORWARDS

16	Joaquim AGOSTINHO da Silva Ribeiro (Por)	15.10.75
10	Sebastian Fernandez Reyes, BASTI	21.06.74
24	Henrique Guedes da Silva, CATANHA (Bra)	06.03.72
9	DARIO Debray SILVA Pereira (Uru)	02.11.72
14	EDGAR Patricio Carvalho Pacheco (Ang)	07.08.77
15	GENILSON Alves de Oliveira (Bra)	25.02.74
17	Alberto LUQUE Martos	11.03.78

COACH

Joaquin PEIRO

MALLORCA

GOALKEEPERS

13	German Adrian Ramon BURGOS (Arg)	16.04.69
1	CESAR GALVEZ Espinar	31.07.73
25	Leonardo Noeren Franco, LEO FRANCO (Arg)	20.05.77

DEFENDERS

2	ARMANDO Alvarez Alvarez (Fra)	18.07.70
16	DAVID Castedo Escudero	23.01.74
20	Miguel Angel NADAL	28.07.66
5	Fernando NINO Bejereno	16.09.74
14	Xabier OLAIZOLA Rodriguez	28.11.69
4	Juan Jose SERRIZUELA (Arg)	25.01.77
6	Gustavo Lionel SIVIERO (Arg)	13.09.69
3	Miquel SOLER Sarasols	13.03.65

MIDFIELDERS

7	Lluis CARRERAS Ferrer	24.09.72
21	Ardijan DJOKAJ (Yug)	23.05.79
23	Vicente ENGONGA Mate	20.10.65
10	Ariel Miguel IBAGAZA (Arg)	27.10.76
12	LAUREN Bisan Etama-Mayer (Cam)	19.01.77
24	Jose Luis MARTI Soler	28.04.75
17	Francisco SANZ Duran	29.11.72
15	Francisco SOLER Atencia	05.03.70
11	Jovan STANKOVIC (Yug)	04.03.71

FORWARDS

22	Leonardo Angel BIAGINI (Arg)	13.04.77
8	CARLOS Dominguez Dominguez	18.09.76
19	DIEGO TRISTAN Herrera	05.01.76
27	Ivan Cesar GABRICH (Arg) *	28.08.72
9	Gustavo Domingo QUINTEROS (Arg)	27.07.74

COACH

Fernando VAZQUEZ

NUMANCIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jose Luis DIEZMA Izquierdo	22.09.68
13	Adrian Alvaro NUNEZ (Uru)	11.05.73
25	RAUL Rodriguez Serrano	29.11.73

DEFENDERS

17	Alberto BELSUE Arias	02.03.68
4	ELEDER Acedo Elgorriaga	08.09.68
2	Diego JAUME Favaro (Uru)	09.10.73
3	Damian Marcelo MANUSOVICH (Arg)	30.01.73
5	Juan Ramon Lopez MUNIZ	02.11.68
19	IVAN ROCHA Lima (Bra)	14.01.69

MIDFIELDERS

14	Francisco Jose CASTANO Allende	29.12.72
7	Jose Ignacio Hurtado Lopez, INAKI I	26.02.72
22	Alejandro 'CACO' MORAN Santamaria	30.04.73
12	Fabrice MOREAU (Cam)	07.10.67
6	Domingo NAGORE Arbizu	26.08.74
11	OCTAVIO Vinals Gonzalez	19.09.70
20	Jose Rojo Martin, PACHETA	23.03.68
18	Gabriel POPESCU (Rom)	23.12.73
23	Alberto RIVERA Pizarro	19.02.78
8	Vicente Blasco Sanchez, TITO	15.07.71

FORWARDS

21	Constantin BARBU (Rom)	16.05.71
15	JORGE PEREZ Saenz	24.10.75
10	Jose Luis MORALES Martin	02.08.73
24	Pedro Rafael OJEDA Bustos (Arg)	15.11.72
16	Jose Angel Perez Cebrian, PEPIN	28.10.75
9	RUBEN NAVARRO Mendez	06.06.78

COACH

Andoni GOIKOETXEA

OVIEDO

GOALKEEPERS

1	ESTEBAN Andres Suarez	27.06.75
27	Stephan LUCAS (Fra)	18.04.78
25	Juan Carlos UNZUE Labiano	22.04.67

DEFENDERS

30	Sergio BORIS Gonzalez Monteagudo	26.05.80
13	Mateo CORBO (Uru)	21.04.76
14	Frederic DANJOU (Fra)	28.09.74
7	Viktor ONOPKO (Rus)	11.10.69
2	OSCAR ALVAREZ Sanjuan	09.06.77
3	Frank RABARIVONY (Fra)	15.11.70

MIDFIELDERS

16	Daniel AMIEVA Villa	24.03.76
5	Ricardo Gonzalez BANGO	18.09.68
18	Gert CLAESSENS (Blg)	21.02.72
10	Peter DUBOVSKY (Slk)	07.05.72
23	Xabier ESKURZA Garcia	17.01.70
19	IVAN ANIA Cadavieco	24.10.77
6	IVAN IGLESIAS Corteguera	16.12.71
15	JAIME Fernandez Jordan	02.02.77
20	Idrissa KEITA (IvC)	10.04.77
21	Albert NADJ (Yug)	29.10.74
28	OLIVER Abad Chico	26.02.79
17	PAULO Jorge Gomes BENTO (Por)	20.06.69
12	Roberto Fabian POMPEI (Arg)	14.03.70

FORWARDS

9	Julio Cesar DELY VALDES (Pan)	12.03.67
8	FABIO PINTO (Bra)	09.10.80
29	Eugenio Suarez Santos, GENI	04.04.80
11	JUAN Antonio GONZALEZ Crespo (Uru)	27.05.72
24	Roberto LOSADA Rodriguez	25.10.76
22	Peter MOLLER (Den)	23.03.72

COACH

Luis ARAGONES Suarez

RACING SANTANDER

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jose Maria CEBALLOS Vega	07.09.69
30	DANIEL ROIZ Mugica	24.06.80
13	Erwin LEMMENS (Blg)	12.05.75

DEFENDERS

4	Claudio David ARZENO (Arg)	16.10.70
5	Olof MELLBERG (Swe)	03.09.77
26	Jose MORATON Taeno	14.07.79
20	Borja Enrique Allesa, NERU	20.01.74
29	PABLO CASAR Bustillo	17.09.78
22	Jose Manuel Suarez Rivas, SIETES	18.02.74
24	Washington TAIS (Uru)	21.12.72
15	Jose Maria Alonso Fernandez TXEMA	29.04.71

MIDFIELDERS

21	Jose Emilio AMAVISCA Garate	19.06.71
8	David BILLABONA Etxaleku	05.12.69
27	CESAR PORRAS Albendea	02.04.79
18	Gonzalo COLSA Ruiz	11.05.77
3	Marcelo Fabian ESPINA (Arg)	28.04.67
6	ISMAEL Ruiz Salmon	02.07.77
14	Fernando MORAN Escudero	24.07.76
19	Sergei SHUSTIKOV (Rus)	30.09.70
28	TXOMIN Arrotegui	17.02.80
10	Angel Manuel VIVAR DORADO	12.02.74

FORWARDS

11	Vladimir BESCHASTNYKH (Rus)	01.04.74
16	JONATHAN	
7	Javier MANJARIN Perez	31.12.69
23	Pedro MUNITIS Alvarez	19.06.75
2	Sigurd RUSHFELDT (Nor)	11.12.72
9	Salvador Ballesta Vialco, SALVA	25.05.75

COACH

Gustavo BENITEZ

RAYO VALLECANO

GOALKEEPERS

25	Kasey KELLER (USA)	19.11.69
13	Julen LOPETEGUI Argote	20.08.66
1	Javier YUBERO Solanilla	21.01.72

DEFENDERS

6	Imanol ALCAZAR Egana	16.04.67
4	Ivan AMAYA Carazo	03.09.78
12	David CLOTET Roca	01.12.72
2	Imanol COTA Egana	28.07.67
7	Eduardo ESTIBARIZ Ruiz de Eguiluz	27.05.66
23	Jordi FERRON Forne	15.08.78
19	GILMAR Jorge dos Santos (Bra)	23.04.71
17	Jean Francois HERNANDEZ (Fra)	23.04.69
3	Carlos LLORENS Mestre	01.09.69

MIDFIELDERS

11	DANI BOUZAS Pan	21.11.74
24	HELDER Manuel Elias Domingos (Por)	18.02.72
14	LUIS CEMBRANOS Martinez	06.06.72
8	Miguel Angel Sanchez, MICHEL I	30.10.75
22	PABLO SANZ Iniesta	30.08.73
20	Gerhard POSCHNER (Ger)	23.09.69
5	Dave VAN DER BERGH (Hol)	07.05.76

FORWARDS

21	Jon Andoni Perez Alonso, BOLO	05.03.74
16	Manuel CANABAL Fiestras	10.11.74
9	IVAN ROSADO Mojarro	23.04.74
15	Martin Roberto MANDRA (Arg)	20.12.75
10	Miguel Angel Carrilero, MICHEL II	18.07.77
18	Joaquin Alberto Da Silva, QUINZINHO (Ang)	04.03.74

COACH

Juande RAMOS

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

13	Albano Benjamin BIZARRI (Arg)	09.11.77
25	Iker CASILLAS Fernandez	20.05.81
1	Bodo ILLGNER (Ger)	07.04.67

DEFENDERS

17	Javier DORADO Bielsa	17.02.77
4	Fernando Ruiz HIERRO	23.03.68
12	IVAN CAMPO Ramos	21.02.74
23	JULIO CESAR Santos Correa (Bra)	17.08.78
18	Aitor KARANKA De la Hoz	18.09.73
2	MICHEL SALGADO Fernandez	22.10.75
3	ROBERTO CARLOS da Silva (Bra)	10.04.73
5	Manuel SANCHIS Hontiyuelo	23.05.65

MIDFIELDERS

24	ALVARO Benito Villar	10.12.76
16	GEREMI Ndjitap (Cam)	20.12.78
14	Jose Maria Gutierrez Hernandez, GUTI	31.10.76
15	IVAN HELGUERA Bujia	28.03.75
	Robert JARNI (Cro)	26.10.68
22	Christian KAREMBEU (Fra)	03.12.70
8	Steve McMANAMAN (Eng)	11.02.72
6	Fernando Carlos REDONDO Neri (Arg)	06.07.69
11	SAVIO Bortolini Pimentel (Bra)	09.01.74
10	Clarence SEEDORF (Hol)	01.04.76

FORWARDS

19	Nicolas ANELKA (Fra)	27.03.79
20	Elvir BALJIC (Bos)	08.07.74
21	Samuel ETO'O Fils (Cam)	10.03.81
9	Fernando MORIENTES Sanchez	05.04.76
7	RAUL Gonzalez Blanco	27.06.77

COACH

John TOSHACK

REAL SOCIEDAD

GOALKEEPERS

1	ALBERTO Lopez Fernandez	20.05.69
25	IKER ALVAREZ Braceras	11.05.77

DEFENDERS

12	Mikel ANTIA Mandiaraz	13.02.73
3	Agustin ARANZABAL Alkorta	15.03.73
2	Miguel Angel FUENTES Azpiroz	06.08.64
14	Aitor LOPEZ REKARTE	18.08.75
5	Lorenzo Juarros Garcia, LOREN	07.10.66
6	Jose Antonio PIKABEA Larrarte	26.09.70
15	Iker SARRIEGI Etxabe	16.08.73

MIDFIELDERS

23	Mutiu ADEPOJU (Nig)	22.12.70
11	Mikel ARANBURU Eizagirre	18.02.79
32	ASOREI	
17	Jose Javier BARKERO Saludes	27.04.79
10	Francisco Javier DE PEDRO Falque	04.08.73
4	Juan Andres GOMEZ (Arg)	25.01.71
8	Jose Felix GUERRERO Lopez	23.08.75
24	Igor JAUREGI Iraola	29.04.74
22	Dietmar KUHBAUER (Aut)	04.04.71

FORWARDS

16	Aitor ALDEONDO	25.01.75
9	Victor BONILLA (Col)	23.01.71
21	Oscar DE PAULA Gamero	31.05.75
18	Inigo IDIAKEZ Barkaiztegi	08.11.73
30	LLORENTE	
7	Ricardo Manuel da Silva SA PINTO (Por)	10.10.72

COACH

Javier CLEMENTE

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Gerardo Daniel RABAJDA (Uru)	13.08.67
13	Juan Jose VALENCIA De La Serna	18.09.71

DEFENDERS

2	Orlando Jose Lemos Martins, BAKERO (Por)	02.04.78
15	Sebastian Manuel CORONA Nazario	08.07.76
17	HECTOR Berenguel del Pino	11.10.74
5	Misrad HIBIC (Bos)	11.10.73
26	MANUEL ANGEL Esteban	04.07.69
6	Carlos MARCHENA Lopez	31.07.79
3	Fernando Martinez Perales, NANDO	31.05.67
4	Jose Miguel PRIETO Castillo	22.11.71
18	TABARE Abayuba SILVA (Uru)	30.08.74

MIDFIELDERS

14	ALFREDO Santelena Aguado	13.10.67
12	ANGEL Rodriguez Nebreda	02.01.72
23	FRANCISCO Lama Diaz	18.11.75
11	Alfredo Lobeiras Sanchez, FREDI	07.05.74
7	Jesus Mora Nieto, JESULI	24.01.78
21	Ivan JURIC (Cro)	25.08.75
16	Inti PODESTA Mezzetta (Uru)	23.04.78
22	Jose Maria QUEVEDO Garcia	01.09.69
10	Vassilis TSARTAS (Gre)	12.11.71

FORWARDS

20	JUAN CARLOS Gomez Diaz	05.04.74
19	Lorenzo del Pino Morales, LOREN	17.06.74
8	Gabriel MOYA Sanz	30.03.66
9	Nicolas OLIVERA (Uru)	30.05.78
25	Marcelo OTERO (Uru)	14.04.71
24	Marcelo ZALAYETA (Uru)	05.12.78

COACH

Marcos ALONSO

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS

13	Jorge BARTUAL Molina	18.08.71
1	Jose Santiago CANIZARES Ruiz	18.02.69
25	Andres PALOP Cervera	22.10.73

DEFENDERS

20	Jocelyn ANGLOMA (Fra)	07.08.65
3	Joachim BJORKLUND (Swe)	15.02.71
4	Francisco CAMARASA Castellar	27.09.67
15	Amadeo CARBONI (Ita)	06.04.65
5	Miroslav DJUKIC (Yug)	19.02.66
24	Daniel Fernando FAGIANI (Arg)	22.01.74
2	Mauricio PELLEGRINO (Arg)	05.10.71
16	Alain ROCHE (Fra)	14.10.67
12	Miguel Angel SORIA Lopez	26.03.74

MIDFIELDERS

23	David ALBELDA Aliques	01.09.77
8	Francisco Javier FARINOS Zapata	29.03.78
14	GERARD Lopez Segu	12.03.77
18	Cristian Alberto 'KILY' GONZALEZ (Arg)	04.08.74
6	Gaizka MENDIETA Zabala	27.03.74
21	Luis MILLA Aspas	12.03.66
9	OSCAR Garcia Junyent	26.04.73
22	Denis SERBAN (Rom)	05.01.76

FORWARDS

10	Miguel Angel ANGULO Valderrey	23.06.77
7	CLAUDIO Javier LOPEZ (Arg)	17.07.74
11	Adrian ILIE (Rom)	20.04.74
17	Juan Gines SANCHEZ Moreno	15.05.72
19	Goran VLAOVIC (Cro)	07.08.72

COACH

Hector CUPER

VALLADOLID

GOALKEEPERS

1	CESAR Sanchez Dominguez	02.09.71
13	RICARDO Lopez Felipe	31.12.71

DEFENDERS

5	Jose Antonio GARCIA CALVO	01.04.75
2	Gabriel Ivan HEINZE (Arg)	19.03.78
3	Alberto MARCOS Rey	15.02.74
17	Juan Manuel PENA Montano (Bol)	17.01.73
6	Jose Luis SANTAMARIA Buitrago	14.01.73
24	Manuel TENA Lopez	08.09.76
8	Javier TORRES GOMEZ	09.01.70

MIDFIELDERS

4	ARILSON Gilberto da Costa (Bra)	11.06.73
28	Jorge Orlando BRITEZ Larramendi (Par)	08.02.81
22	Jose Luis Perez CAMINERO	08.11.67
14	Jose Manuel Jimenez Sancho, CHEMA	09.05.76
10	EUSEBIO Sacristan Mena	13.04.64
20	John Harold LOZANO Prado (Col)	30.03.73
11	RODRIGO Fabri (Bra)	15.01.76
18	Jesus Angel TURIEL de la Cruz	06.10.73
15	Juan VIZCAINO Morcillo	06.08.66

FORWARDS

19	ALBERTO Lopez Moreno	25.02.67
23	Edwin CONGO (Col)	07.10.76
7	LUIS Javier Garcia Sanz	24.06.78
9	Alen PETERNAC (Cro)	16.01.72
21	VICTOR Manuel Fernandez Gutierrez	17.04.74

COACH

Gregorio MANZANO

ZARAGOZA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Juan Miguel Garcia Ingles, JUANMI	09.03.71
13	Cesar LAINEZ Sanjuan	10.04.77
30	Joaquin MOSO Hernandez	07.09.78

DEFENDERS

6	Xavier AGUADO Companys	05.06.68
4	Luis Carlos CUARTERO Laforga	17.08.75
5	Marco LANNA (Ita)	13.07.68
21	Jorge Daniel MARTINEZ (Arg)	20.06.73
16	PABLO Javier Diaz Stalla (Arg)	05.08.71
23	Francisco Jemez Martin, PACO	18.04.70
3	Jesus Angel SOLANA Bermejo	25.12.64
22	Gary SUNDGREN (Fin)	25.10.67

MIDFIELDERS

20	Roberto Miguel ACUNA Cabello (Par)	25.03.72
8	Santiago ARAGON Martinez	03.04.68
10	Ander GARITANO Ukizu	26.02.69
14	JOSE IGNACIO Saenz Martin	28.09.73
17	LUIS HELGUERA Bujia	09.06.76
24	MARCOS VALES Illanes	05.04.75
11	Martin VELLISCA Gonzalez	25.04.67

FORWARDS

12	Paulo Roberto JAMELLI Junior (Bra)	22.07.74
7	Juan Castano Quiros, JUANELE	10.04.71
9	Savo MILOSEVIC (Yug)	02.09.73
19	Jorge Gonzalez Diaz, YORDI	14.09.74

COACH

Txebxu ROJO

HP
ALL DAY BREAKFAST
Pork & Chopped Egg Nuggets, Bacon & Mushrooms in
'Cos you never know when
you'll wake up!
HP. BRILLIANT BAKED BEANS

Crash! Crash!

That's Milan out of both the Euro competitions. Paddy Agnew in Rome reports

Down and out...Milan players after their defeat in Istanbul

WHEN the curtain finally came down on the first phase of the new-look Champions League, Italian soccer was nursing painful and unexpected wounds.

For a country that likes to consider its Serie A tournament as nothing less than the best in the world, it was bitterly disappointing to realise that only Lazio and Fiorentina of the four original Italian entrants had qualified for the second phase.

While Parma's qualifying round elimination by Rangers in August can be put down to pre-season lack of fitness, the elimination of champions Milan is not so easily explained. In their final all-decisive Group H game, they went down 3-2 to Turkish champions Galatasaray, conceding two goals in the last three minutes. This not only put Milan out of the Champions League, but also out of the UEFA Cup.

Watching the Italian champions limp through an agonising second half against Galatasaray, one had the sensation that only fortune's fickle wheel was going to get them through. True, Milan were leading with three minutes to go but, frankly, they had done far too little either in that match or in earlier group games (one win, two losses and three draws) to deserve to qualify for the second phase.

This was a point underlined by *Gazzetta Dello Sport*, which said: "It is only right that Milan find themselves kicked out of both the Champions League and the UEFA Cup. The truth is that this season's version of the Milan team is simply ridiculous and unworthy. For the final half hour, all you could see on the pitch were ghosts running around with a famous shirt on their backs."

Parma at least had the excuse that they found themselves playing a knockout European tie at a time of year when Italian footballers are normally closeted in pre-season training camps. What excuse can we offer for Milan? Could it be that, in retrospect, the Champions League's first phase this autumn has offered us a valid assessment of current Italian strengths? Many of us have long suspected that last year was not the year when Milan won the title but when Lazio threw it away.

Put simply, Milan last season were rarely as inventive, impressive or spectacular as Lazio, Fiorentina or Parma. They were merely more consistent, taking full advantage of the mistakes and the busier calendar of their opponents.

While Milan were out of all European competition last season, Lazio and Parma went all the way in their respective cup tournaments, with Lazio defeating Mallorca to win the Cup-winners Cup and Parma winning both the UEFA Cup, against Marseille, and the Italian Cup, against Fiorentina.

The irony of Milan's elimination will not be lost on commentators worldwide. After all, it was the club's *padrone*, centre-right opposition leader and media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, who started canvassing for a European Super League more than a decade ago.

In more recent times, when Milan's acting president, Adriano Galliano, was pressing hard for the new-format Champions League, he hardly envisaged his own side going out in the first round, thus forsaking a possible £17million-worth of TV, box office and prize money revenue.

In truth, the form shown by Italy's Champions League contenders mirrored very closely that shown in the opening two months of the *campionato*.

With the exception of an exciting 4-4 draw with Lazio, discussed in this column last month, Milan have failed to sparkle so far this season in Serie A. Three days before their Galatasaray debacle, they had looked grey, weary and disinterested as they struggled to a 0-0 draw away to Verona.

Before that they had been distinctly lucky 2-1 winners of the Milan derby. It was settled by a 90th-minute goal from George Weah after Inter had been down to 10 men for more than an hour, Ronaldo having been sent off for elbowing Roberto Ayala.

Milan's problems this autumn have not been helped by the fact that their most creative schemer, Zvonimir Boban, has been out with a back injury at the same time as their most consistent ball-winning midfielder, Demetrio Albertini, has been off form.

The weakening in midfield has meant that the prodigious talents of Andrii Shevchenko, Oliver Bierhoff and Weah have had to work off half-rations. Milan fans can at least console themselves with the thought that when the midfield finally gets its act together (i.e. when Boban is fully fit), then, hopefully, the men up front will still be looking good.

In contrast, Inter have been coming along nicely, notwithstanding their derby disappointment. It was not for nothing that Inter went closer than anyone else to defeating leaders Lazio, drawing 1-1 at San Siro and again conceding a late goal.

Inter coach Marcello Lippi told *World Soccer* the other day, not without a twinkle in his eye, that Ronaldo was definitely on the way back to his best. Lippi, keen to play down speculation about tensions between he and the Brazilian, already appears to have got his message across – namely that Ronaldo is just another player in the squad and if he fails to train properly, if he is not 100 per cent match fit, then his chances of playing are few and far between.

With striker Christian Vieri looking worth all his £31million price tag, veterans such as Ivan Zamorano and Paulo Sousa rediscovering their

best form, Ronaldo on the way back and Laurent Blanc looking imperious in defence, Inter's *campionato* challenge looks to rest on a solid foundation. Remember, too, that Inter did not qualify for Europe this year.

Not, mind you, that European competition is doing Lazio any harm. They went into November top of the Serie A table, top of Champions League Group A and unbeaten in 15 consecutive matches, including their pre-season European Supercup win against Manchester United.

So far, so good for Lazio's affable Swedish coach, Sven Goran Eriksson, who has maintained his pre-season promise that he would make full use of Lazio's imposing squad strength, implementing a 'turnover' system that stands traditional wisdom on its head by systematically changing a winning formation.

Eriksson expanded on his methods: "In the beginning turnover was not easy because it is difficult for great players who normally never sit on the bench to accept it, or even to accept having to stay at home and train rather than go and play in a big match. But now players are learning to accept it because they know that you cannot play 65 big matches in a season and always be at your best. And, of course, it helps a lot that we are winning..."

We will, however, know more about Lazio's Serie A prospects after they have played Roma and then Juventus in successive end-of-November games. It is worth recalling that Lazio's fall from grace in last season's title contest began with a 3-1 derby defeat by Roma last April, followed a week later by another 3-1 loss at home to Juventus.

In the meantime, Eriksson is worried about the post-Christmas period. He believes that his side may pay a heavy price for the busy Champions League campaign, 'turnover' notwithstanding. "Playing stress will make itself felt," he says. "We haven't seen the difficulties yet, the real problems will come in February, March and April if we are still in the Champions League. Come that period, we will need a lot of players."

Pro-file Sinisa Mihajlovic

Thoroughbred with a kick like a mule

Paddy Agnew talks to a Player of the Year contender

AT THE END of a Lazio training session last August, Yugoslav defender and free-kick specialist Sinisa Mihajlovic was practising his formidable left-foot blasters. He was standing well inside one penalty area and aiming at the other, some 80 yards away.

"Bet you a fiver you can't put it over the fence and right out of the ground from there," quipped the club's Swedish coach, Sven Goran Eriksson.

No sooner said than done. At the second time of asking, the Mihajlovic mule kick launched the ball on a 120-yard orbit into the countryside, high above the perimeter fence of Lazio's Formello training ground. Mission accomplished, Mihajlovic ran for the dressing-room to delighted applause all round.

For most of this autumn, the 30-year-old has continued to accomplish his mission. He was voted best player in the Yugoslav side that qualified for Euro 2000 at the expense of Croatia, and has played a prominent part in Lazio's excellent start both in the *campionato* and Champions League.

When he scored Lazio's final goal in a 3-0 win at Udinese on October 16 it was his 21st from a free-kick in seven seasons in Serie A with Roma, Sampdoria and Lazio. He also has been on target in Lazio's Champions League campaign.

On his day, Mihajlovic is unstoppable. During a 5-2 beating of Sampdoria last December, he pulverised Fabrizio Ferron in the Sampdoria goal, scoring three times with free-kicks. Such has been his excellent form that a not too discreet Italian media campaign has been trying to promote his candidacy for European Footballer of the Year.

Those familiar with Mihajlovic tend to see him as a cheerful figure, one of those players who often wears a sheepish grin as he lumbers over to take a free-kick or corner – but the missiles released from his left foot, plus his viciously curling corners, make him a defender's nightmare.

The seemingly sunny personality, however, can be misleading because Mihajlovic, like many of his countrymen, has been profoundly marked by the vicious ethnic warfare which resulted in the break-up of the former communist Republic of Yugoslavia.

He was born into a 'mixed' family – his father, Bogdan, is a Serb; his mother, Viktorija, a Croat – in Vukovar, a city that suffered horrendous damage during the Bosnian war. A couple of years ago

Mihajlovic decided to take a trip down memory lane, returning to his native city. He knew it had been destroyed by the war but was still shocked by what he found. "Vukovar was wiped out like some sort of Hiroshima, our house reduced to rubble. I stopped the car close to my old school, I wanted to retrace the path I used to take as a child every morning, but the school wasn't there any more. Rummaging through the rubble of our house, I found a poster of the Yugoslav national team with me in it. There was a bullet mark over my heart."

Last spring, too, Mihajlovic did not attempt to hide his sense of suffering when NATO forces bombed Yugoslavia. For a time he was tempted not to play for Lazio, but in the end opted to do so, wearing a black armband in memory of the victims.

Before the Euro 2000 qualifiers, Mihajlovic dismissed critics who suggested that Yugoslavia would not qualify. He argued that the team's poor France 98 showing had left them with much to prove. The results appear to have proved him to be spot on.

Can he make such an accurate prediction about Lazio, early season League leaders? "Let's not talk about running away with the title, but we are where we deserve to be and where we want to remain."

The European Player of the Year award would be a huge honour for Mihajlovic but he would be even more honoured to be named Yugoslavia's Sportsman of the Year. As of now, he reckons he is in with a big chance. "People are even saying that they should give me a diplomatic passport or make me some sort of goodwill ambassador for my country."

So if not European Player of the Year, there could be diplomatic status.

Fact file

Club Lazio (Ita)
Country Yugoslavia
Born February 28, 1969, in Vukovar
Previous clubs Vojvodina, Red Star Belgrade, Roma (Ita), Sampdoria (Ita)
International debut May 1991, v Faroes
International caps 42 (5 gls)
Honours Champions Cup 1991 (Red Star); Cup-winners Cup 1999 (Lazio); Yugoslavian League 1989 (Vojvodina), 1991, 1992 (Red Star)

Rayo's early sting

Duncan Shaw reports on the newcomers who keep nicking the points

AS THIS season began, newly-promoted Rayo Vallecano were everyone's favourites for relegation. So it is to the astonishment of all Spain that the team of cast-offs and rejects from Madrid's unfashionable south-western suburb of Vallecas are still challenging Barcelona for top spot.

Rayo, formed in 1924 and taking their name from the flash of red lightning across their shirts, have spent most of their years in the Second Division. They finally made it into the top flight in 1977, only to be relegated three years later after selling their Uruguayan striker, Fernando Morena, to Valencia.

The club continued their yo-yo existence throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, going up three more times only to return quickly. In 1993, however, larger-than-life businessman Jose Maria Ruiz-Mateos, a man with even more lawsuits against him than Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil, bought Rayo and, because of his legal problems, made his wife, Maria Teresa Rivero, the president. She thus became the first woman to be in charge of a Spanish club, and the family set-up was completed when his son was made deputy.

The Ruiz-Mateos millions helped Rayo to scrape into the promotion play-offs in June, and they surprisingly beat Extremadura home and away to seal their fifth promotion.

Coach Juande Ramos – previously at Logrones, Barcelona B and Lleida – realised he needed reinforcements for the new top flight campaign, and made USA international keeper Kasey Keller his first signing, from Leicester. Keller was joined by Barcelona B utility man Jordi Ferron, Vicenza's German playmaker Gerard Poschner, and tall young strikers Manuel Canabal and Jon Bolo, rejected by Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao respectively.

Rayo's first match was away to Atletico Madrid. They raised eyebrows by running out with a massive yellow bee – the logo of the Ruiz-Mateos chain of companies – stamped across their red sash, but it was Atletico who were badly stung, going down 2-0.

Before their second match, at home to Mallorca, Rayo held a referendum about changing the name of their ground from Nuevo Estadio Vallecas to Estadio Maria Teresa Rivero. The change was accepted by the majority of fans, who then cheered Rayo to a 2-1 win. Seven days later Real Sociedad were beaten by the same score.

Rayo went top for the first time in their history on September 19, a late goal by Bolo proving enough to beat Celta away. The team looked formidable, and the strategy of soaking up the pressure then launching daring counters worked to perfection. Keller looked immense in goal; veteran defenders Jesus Cota, Jean-Francois Hernandez and Angel Alcazar were magnificent under pressure; in midfield, Ferron, Luis Cembranos and Michel II worked tirelessly, while Poschner pulled the strings; up front, Bolo and Canabal looked fast and willing.

Out in front...Michel I is challenged by Engonga of Mallorca

Even despite losing the League lead after luckless home defeats by Zaragoza and Betis, Rayo have since nosed ahead once more. Against Betis, Hernandez and Alcazar were both harshly sent off, causing Rivero to complain that "small clubs like us are always suffering at the hands of shameless referees". But she also vowed that "this setback is not going to stop us...we're enjoying life up here and intend to stay".

RAYO VALLECANO - WHO'S WHO

THE COACH

Juande RAMOS
Born: 25.09.54
Hard-working coach who demands a lot from his men – and usually gets it. Has a good eye for a useful player rejected by the big clubs. Normally plays 4-2-3-1, with a hard-working midfield and big, powerful strikers. An up-and-coming coach.

GOALKEEPERS

Kasey KELLER (USA)
29.11.69
One of the best keepers in Spain at the moment, and a major factor behind Rayo's wonderful start.

Julen LOPETEGUI
28.08.66
Went to the 1994 World Cup as Spanish third choice, when with Logrones. Then wasted three years on the bench at Barcelona before helping Rayo back into the top flight. Has been pushed out this season by Keller.

DEFENDERS

Angel ALCAZAR
16.04.67
Born in Madrid but made his name at Sporting Gijon, who sold him to Rayo in 1993. Solid and reliable left-back.

Jesus COTA
28.07.67
Mr Loyalty, with the club since 1987, despite all the relegations. Now captain and playing at right-back.

Kasey Keller

GILMAR Jorge Dos Santos (Bra)
23.04.71
Brazilian defender picked up cheaply from Zaragoza. Has been kept on the bench so far by Ramos.

Jean-Francois HERNANDEZ (Fra)
23.04.69
Born in France of Spanish parents, formerly with Toulouse, Sochaux, Marseille and Compostela. Commanding centre-half.

Carlos LLORENS
01.09.70
An important figure in Rayo's promotion success, but has lost his place through injury this season.

MIDFIELDERS

Luis CEMBRANOS
06.06.72
Diminutive player who made his name at Espanyol after being rejected by Barcelona. Plays just behind either one or two forwards.

DANI BOUZAS
22.11.74
Galician midfielder who caught the eye at Sporting Gijon and Albacete. Now struggling to get off the bench.

Jordi Ferron

Eduardo ESTIBARIZ
20.05.66
Veteran midfielder who never quite made it in some 10 years at Athletic Bilbao.

Toshack walks a tightrope

JOHN TOSHACK teetered on the brink of dismissal in the wake of Real Madrid's humiliating 3-1 home defeat by neighbours Atletico.

Real fans raged at both the Welsh coach and club president Lorenzo Sanz as Madrid's run without a win extended to an almost unheard-of eight games.

Qualification for the second group stage of the Champions League clearly failed to placate the *aficionados*. After all, Real had been expected to progress from a comparatively weak group featuring FC Porto, Olympiakos and Molde.

Toshack arrived in Madrid only last February, charged with bringing order and discipline to a clique-ridden dressing-room. Madrid spent more than £50million during the summer on new players, largely on Toshack's advice.

But bad luck with injuries to Steve McManaman and Elvir Baljic plus the questionable judgment over signing Nicolas Anelka appear likely to overwhelm Toshack, just as Guus Hiddink and Jupp Heynckes have been swept away in the past 18 months.

Toshack remained cool under fire after the match. He said: "It was a fair result. In fact, it could have been worse. We lacked concentration and I'm not going to use our injury problems as an excuse. Our performance was a long way from what I want."

Such an outcome had looked out of the question when Fernando Morientes headed Real in front after only nine minutes.

But Atletico, who had struggled even more awkwardly than Real so far this term, hit back four minutes with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink racing through the defence to score.

In the 31st minute more poor defending presented a second Atletico goal to Jose Mari, then Hasselbaink added a third six minutes before half-time.

Any hopes Real nurtured of a stirring second-half recovery were wrecked when goalkeeper Albano Bizarri was sent off five minutes after the restart for a foul on the onrushing Joan Capdevila.

The rest of the second half was played out to a stream of jeers and catcalls from 87,000 Real fans. It was no consolation to them that, simultaneously, Barcelona were losing – 2-1 away to La Coruna.

Barcelona's slip-up allowed Rayo Vallecano to go back to the top of the table after a 2-1 win away to Valladolid, thanks to goals from Jordi Ferron and Carlos Llorens.

Zaragoza were cruising along in third place with La Coruna moving up to fourth and Celta slipping back to fifth after a bad-tempered 1-0 defeat away to Alaves. Veteran Spain striker Julio Salinas scored the decisive goal against a Celta side reduced to nine men after the expulsions of Alexander Mostovoi and Claude Makelele.

Former national coach Javier Clemente made a losing start as the new boss at Real Sociedad, having replaced Bernd Krauss after a year's enforced sabbatical. Finidi George scored the game's only goal at home for Betis.

Keir Radnedge

Jordi FERRON
19.08.78
Can play either at the back or in the middle. Was brought on by Ramos in the Barcelona B team.

MICHEL I (Miguel Angel Sanchez)
30.10.75
Hard-working midfielder, named after former Real Madrid star Michel Gonzalez.

MICHEL II (Miguel Angel Carrilero)
03.08.77
A similar kind of player to his namesake, strong and indefatigable. Scored nine goals in the push for promotion last season.

PABLO SANZ
30.08.73
Dependable player who was important last season but has since lost his place.

Gerard POSCHNER (Ger)
23.06.69
Elegant German midfield general. Failed to hold down a regular place at Stuttgart and Venezia, so made the move to Rayo.

FORWARDS

Jon BOLO Perez
05.03.74
Awkward-looking forward finally coming good after four years on the fringes at Athletic Bilbao.

Manuel CANABAL
10.11.74
A massive flop when signed by Real Madrid from Merida in 1997. Surprisingly skilful given his height, and also can play in midfield.

Dave VAN DER BERGH (Hol)
07.05.76
Dutch striker originally at Ajax. Now kept mostly on the bench for emergencies.

Pro-file Gaizka Mendieta

Valencia's duckling who turned into a swan

THE STORY of Gaizka Mendieta is the classic tale of a footballing ugly duckling who slowly blossoms into a handsome swan.

Two images neatly illustrate the transformation of the introverted Valencia captain from artisan to artist.

On June 24, 1995, Mendieta, an awkward-looking 21-year-old who had been signed from Second Division Castellon, was playing right-back for Valencia in the Spanish Cup Final against Deportivo La Coruna. He sweated and struggled through a rain-soaked defeat, and was lucky not to be sent off for some clumsy tackling.

On June 26, 1999, Mendieta, now club captain and an established international, was asked by coach Claudio Ranieri to play on the left of midfield in the Cup Final against Atletico Madrid. Despite being out of position, Mendieta looked magnificent. He centred for Claudio Lopez to open the scoring, then scored one of the most memorable goals in Spanish football history: controlling with his chest, flicking the ball over two bemused defenders, then hitting home a cool volley. Shades of Pele 1958, no less.

So what has changed in four years? "Hard work, mostly," replies the modest Mendieta, never a man to relish the limelight. "I've worked tremendously hard at my game over the years. I've also learnt how to play in many different positions."

His workrate is still formidable, as are his tackles; what is different now is that Mendieta has become creator as well as destroyer. In addition, he frequently goes forward to put away handsome goals and precise penalties.

Mendieta began to lose his ugly duckling image in the 1997-98 season, when Ranieri chose him – to the detriment of Ariel Ortega – to be the leader of a hard-pressing midfield, whose main job was to get the ball forward early to Lopez. The result: Mendieta finished with 10 goals and the captain's armband.

"Ranieri was a good coach," he says. "The style of play might not have been very handsome, but it gave us good results. We needed stability here after four or five years of confusion, and he gave it to us."

Mendieta did so well under Ranieri that he was quickly called up by Spain's new manager, Jose Antonio Camacho. He made his debut away to San Marino in March, then scored his first international goal three months later against the same team. He has yet to nail a regular place in Camacho's midfield, but is sure to make the trip to Euro 2000.

In the summer Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao were desperate to sign him. John Toshack wanted to build his midfield around him; Athletic were keen because Mendieta was born in Bilbao and fits into their Basque-only policy.

However, new Valencia coach Hector Cuper insisted that the player had to stay, so the club tripled his salary. Mendieta has repaid the club by leading them to the second round of the Champions League; he was colossal in the crucial win at Ibrox Park, scoring the opening goal and driving his team on to victory.

The evidence was there for the whole of Europe to see; the transformation was complete.

Duncan Shaw

Fact file

Club Valencia
Country Spain
Born March 27, 1974, in Bilbao
Previous club Castellon
International debut March 1999, v San Marino
International caps 6 (1 gl)
Honours Spanish Cup 1999; Spanish Supercup 1999

FRANCE

At peace, and happy with it

Andre Duclos

FRANCE scraped through to the Euro 2000 finals – even topping Group 4 – thanks to David Trezeguet's winning goal against Iceland and a shocking blunder by Russia's keeper in Moscow that same afternoon.

So we qualify directly for the Low Countries tournament, but this is hardly a happy ship; not least the coach, Roger Lemerre, whose enigmatic statements after the Iceland game suggested he had had enough.

It was known there was unrest in the camp among the older players, who felt their places were threatened. Previous boss Aime Jacquet quit while he was ahead – and the esteem in which the nation holds him was shown by the sensationally large sales of his recently-published autobiography.

But against all that, it should be remembered that two major figures were not involved in the Iceland game. Emmanuel Petit is bound to make a huge difference when he and his formidable left foot return to the midfield, while Nicolas Anelka seems to have recaptured the plot after such an uneasy start at Real Madrid, not least in the match that really mattered, at Camp Nou against Barcelona.

Refreshed...David Trezeguet

Meanwhile Trezeguet seems more than confident of his claims. Eight minutes after he had gone on the field at Saint-Denis as substitute for Lilian Laslandes, he scored that vital winner.

"I wanted to show the managers and the team that they could count on me," he says. "I wanted that goal and that qualification. We needed it at any price. Now I want to go on in the same rhythm. I want to play, score and win."

That seems a reasonable ambition for a player who, a year earlier, was in deep trouble with his club, Monaco, and his president, who virtually accused him of playing to get away, together with his team-mate Thierry Henry.

Henry did indeed get away, to Juventus, but things did not work out there, and he moved again, to Arsenal. Trezeguet stayed in Monaco, where he now appears to have made his peace. He realised that if he were to be recalled to the France team, for whom he had not played since last March – having been in and out of the World Cup side – he would have to show good form for his club. That, Trezeguet says, is what happened, with a burst of nine goals.

"I knew then that the international team would naturally follow. There, I have justified the confidence they placed in me," he states.

What has changed? Trezeguet, the son of a former Argentinian footballer, who plied his trade in France, replies: "This season, for the first time since I have been at Monaco, I've been able to prepare in complete serenity and now I am in top physical condition. It's paid off."

There have been mixed fortunes of late for Trezeguet's international team-mate Zinedine Zidane. He had another good game against Iceland, but after scoring the only goal, a free-kick, in Juventus' win away to

GERMANY

Bayern back on top

...but without Basler, writes Keir Radnedge

A HAT-TRICK from Giovane Elber in a 5-0 thrashing of Wolfsburg lifted Bayern Munich back to the place where they believe they rightfully belong – the top of the Bundesliga.

Elber scored in the 11th, 26th and 78th minutes, with Paraguayan Roque Santa Cruz adding another in the 15th and Michael Wiesinger claiming the fifth a minute before time. Victory edged Bayern ahead of Borussia Dortmund on goal difference after Dortmund drew 1-1 in their top-of-the-table clash with Hamburg.

The win, Bayern's third in succession, was achieved despite the fact that they had rested several key men ahead of their decisive Champions League clash with Rangers.

Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld feigned surprise, saying: "It's hard to believe we are already League leaders after all the problems, particularly with injuries, that we had at the start of the season. But in the last few weeks our performances have improved out of almost all recognition."

One ongoing problem involves midfielder Mario Basler, whom Bayern have now effectively fired for what club president Franz Beckenbauer called "repeated violations of a player's obligations".

Following an emergency board meeting to discuss the issue, general manager Uli Hoeness said: "Our board has decided that Mario Basler will not play for Bayern again. The decision was unanimous. Some time the straw had to come which would break the camel's back. He has never lived the way we expect our athletes to live."

The relationship between Bayern and Basler, who both smokes heavily and enjoys the Munich nightlife, passed the point of no return when he and reserve goalkeeper Sven Scheuer became embroiled in an early-hours scuffle at a disco.

Just over a year ago Basler was fined for overstaying his welcome at the Oktoberfest beer festival. In February he was involved in a scuffle in a restaurant with another guest whom he accused of insulting his wife. Then, in August, the player was fined £8,000 for spending the night before a League match in a disco.

Basler blamed the deteriorating relationship with Bayern on his refusal to sign a new contract earlier this year after he had demanded pay parity with skipper Stefan Effenberg.

He insisted he was ready to sit out the rest of his contract without playing, saying: "Bayern are paying my salary so I may as well just sit in the stands until my contract expires next June."

Basler never came to terms with the disciplinary demands in Munich after having been given his freedom at previous club Werder Bremen.

His coach there, Otto Rehhagel, who later signed Basler when boss of Bayern, told the other players: "Either the club disciplines Basler and doesn't get anything out of him or we let him do what he wants and win matches."

Once at Bayern, however, the German international's careless approach to training put him on a collision course with the all-powerful Hoeness. He was frequently dropped for lack of match fitness – including for last season's Champions League semi-final first leg against Kyiv Dynamo.

An injury crisis forced Bayern to recall Basler for the second leg in which he scored the winning goal. That effectively ensured his appearance against Manchester United in the Final when he not only scored what was very nearly the Cup-winning goal but was perhaps Bayern's best player.

In the game against Dortmund, Hamburg's goalkeeper Hans-Jorg Butt shot his side ahead from the penalty spot after an hour. It was his fourth such goal of the season and he has become one of the personalities of the current campaign.

Dortmund equalised eight minutes later through Fredi Bobic, but it was not really their day since Andy Moller tore a muscle and Miroslav Stevic broke his nose.

ees Trezeguet lead from the front

Roma, he was sent off after receiving a second yellow card.

Zidane had just published his autobiography which, at the last moment, he insisted on amending. He told his somewhat embarrassed ghost writer – who admitted he may have been a touch too literary – that he did not recognise the descriptions of the games in which he had been involved.

Flying high is the ever-outspoken, controversial Marseille manager, Rolland Courbis, after the win over Manchester United in Europe made up for disappointments in the League.

He has been fiddling around all season with his tactics. Lately he has tended to use 22-year-old William Gallas, scorer of that splendid goal against United, as one of two deep defenders, Eduardo Berizzo being the other, with Sebastien Perez and Patrick Blondeau on the flanks.

In front of these four, in midfield, are Robert Pires, now no longer an out-and-out winger, and, further forward on the flanks, Frederic Brando and the resurrected 'Little Buddha', Ivan De la Pena. He has had such a mixed time of it since he left Barcelona for Lazio, after surprisingly failing to make the cut at Camp Nou under Louis Van Gaal.

Up front is another rejuvenated player in the much-travelled Kaba Diawara and another newcomer, Djamel Belmadi. When fully fit, the expensive and greatly gifted Stephane Dalmat will figure in midfield.

French international left-winger Bernard Diomede has resolved his differences with Auxerre and signed a new contract. He went on training with the team even when he was out of contract, and continued to watch from the stands. He insists that his relations with Guy Roux, 36 years in charge of the team, have not suffered.

"He's always been very demanding," says Diomede. "I probably needed pushing more than most even if there were times when I thought he didn't need to be so hard on me."

Hat-trick hero...Giovane Elber

Bayer Leverkusen, who could also have gone top with a victory, had to settle for a 1-1 draw with 1860 Munich after conceding a last-minute equaliser to Bernhard Winkler. Leverkusen had taken the lead earlier through an Ulf Kirsten penalty.

Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum was furious at having dropped two points through sloppy defending. He said: "I just don't understand how we could allow that to happen. It's all about being professional – and we were not."

Bottom-of-the-table MSV Duisburg missed a penalty and had Dietmar Hirsch sent off in a goalless draw with fellow strugglers SSV Ulm. MSV have yet to win a match this term.

Off the pitch, the DFB was delighted with the success of the visit of FIFA's inspection team vis-a-vis the German bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals. Team leader Alan Rothenberg could hardly have been more effusive in his praise – much to the satisfaction of Franz Beckenbauer, spearhead of the German bid.

The positive reaction fuelled further speculation that Beckenbauer might stand for president of the DFB when Egidius Braun retires in 2001 but Beckenbauer insisted that such a thought had never entered his head.

Pro-file Laurent Robert

Islander who is getting ahead by leaps and bounds

FRENCH schoolboy triple-jump champion turned Paris Saint-Germain left-winger Laurent Robert is not interested in being second.

While PSG coach Philippe Bergeroo spent pre-season emphasising that he would be satisfied with a top-six finish in the championship, Robert, who hails from the Indian Ocean island of Reunion and was a £4million summer signing from Montpellier, had a decidedly more upbeat view of the team's objectives.

"All I'm concentrating on is first place in the League," said the player, talking before the start of the season. "For a team of PSG's stature, it's the only possible goal. Only the top step of the podium should interest us. It would be a shame to limit our ambitions to the UEFA Cup zone. This club has the means to achieve so much more.

"PSG have been disappointing in the last couple of seasons and there's no doubt that I face a big challenge here. But if I perform as well as I think I can and PSG return to the top, the rewards will be tremendous. My aim is to break into the French set-up in good time for the Euro 2000 finals, and nothing will help my case more than a prominent part in a winning PSG side."

Brave words from an uncapped 24-year-old. But to his great credit, Robert already has proved that his ambitious mission statement was not just hot air. Some fine early-season performances for a much-improved PSG earned him a first cap for France, in a friendly win in Northern Ireland in August, and the smart francs will be on his selection for next year's expedition to Belgium and Holland.

"Laurent has an international destiny," says Bergeroo. "He has a great deal going for him – extreme pace, a super left foot, vision and good scoring ability. I've also been pleased with his work-rate and the progress he's made tactically.

"On the other hand, he has to show more self-discipline on the pitch. When he and Ali Benarbia were sent off against Lyon, they penalised the whole team and that's totally unacceptable. [Robert received his red card for a wild lunge at Lyon defender Florent Laville and was subsequently banned for three games.]

"At Montpellier last season, Laurent proved he can both create and finish [he scored 11 goals and made 12 for others]. He's more than capable of a similar return at PSG. Maybe even more."

Not since Didier Six sped down the flank in the late 1970s and early 1980s have France benefited from the craft of a really effective left-winger. Robert could be the man to take up the mantle.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Paris Saint-Germain
Country France
Born May 21, 1975, in Saint-Benoist, Reunion
Previous clubs Stade Brestois, Montpellier
International debut August 1999, v Northern Ireland
International caps 2 (0 gls)

Gunners stumble out

Gavin Hamilton on Arsenal's Champions League demise

Gunned down...Batistuta scores for Fiorentina

TWO out of three wasn't bad, but nor was it outstanding. Manchester United and Chelsea reached the second group stage of the Champions League with comparative ease, but Arsenal, drawn in the toughest first-round group, did not.

Defeats at Wembley by Barcelona and Fiorentina ended the Gunners' chances of progressing, just as last year they crashed to a premature halt following slip-ups at 'home'.

Inevitably, blame was placed firmly at the feet of the Twin Towers. Wembley's wide open spaces were not suited to Arsenal's game, and instead played into the attacking instincts of Barcelona and Fiorentina.

Furthermore, it is becoming clear that Arsenal's ageing defence has reached the point of no return. Mistakes were as much to blame for the Wembley defeats, with captain Tony Adams chief among the culprits.

When Arsene Wenger arrived at Highbury three years ago, swift exits were predicted for the fabled back-line of Seaman, Adams, Bould or Keown, Dixon and Winterburn. Yet the Frenchman was reluctant to break up a defensive partnership whose length of service (and success) is unrivalled in Europe. He was rewarded with the Double in 1998, but deep down he knew the defence was living on borrowed time.

Last summer's arrival of full-backs Oleg Luzhnyi and Silvinho, and the emergence of young centre-back Matthew Upson and Austrian keeper Alex Manninger were signs that, surely, the days of the famous five were over.

Yet Luzhnyi has rarely featured and Silvinho has been used more in midfield than in defence. The results from the Champions League may now force Wenger to rebuild Arsenal's back line. It will not be before time.

At least Wenger has ready-made replacements to hand. Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has struggled to find a successor to goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel. He now appears to have settled on Mark Bosnich, whose attitude to training was questioned early on, in preference to the gaffe-prone Massimo Taibi.

United cruised through their Champions League group despite some below-par performances. In the Premiership, they recovered from their 5-0 stuffing by Chelsea with comfortable home wins over Watford and Aston Villa, but came unstuck again at Tottenham, losing 3-1.

Chelsea are even more inconsistent. Three days after thrashing Galatasaray 5-0 in Istanbul, they let a 2-0 home lead over Arsenal slip, losing 3-2, with Kanu scoring a second-half hat-trick. Then, four days after a mature performance against Milan at San Siro was rewarded with a 1-1 draw, Chelsea lost 3-1 at struggling Derby.

Leeds still top the League, but they face a struggle with Soccer Australia over the services of Harry Kewell, who has been in terrific form for David O'Leary's side.

Finally, a word about Sunderland, whose victory over Tottenham took them up to third pace. They have made their best start to a campaign since 1938, largely thanks to the forward partnership of Kevin Phillips and Niall Quinn.

● Arsenal's Patrick Vieira has been banned for six matches and fined a record £45,000 by the FA after he pleaded guilty to two charges of misconduct following his dismissal at West Ham. He was seen to spit at West Ham's Neil Ruddock and was reported for swearing at a policeman when leaving the pitch.

SCOTLAND

Ferguson still earning praise

RANGERS' impressive run of results in the Champions League – a draw with Bayern Munich and back-to-back victories over PSV – came to a halt at Ibrox when they succumbed for the second time to Valencia.

The Gers then bowed out of the competition after failing to secure a point away to Bayern in the final group game.

The Champions League stage has at least provided midfielder Barry Ferguson with the opportunity to demonstrate his undoubted potential. He is only 21 but has matured considerably since coming under coach Dick Advocaat's guidance.

Striker Michael Mols is another whose appetite for European competition has been apparent. But German midfielder Jorg Albertz has found difficulty in convincing Advocaat that he is worthy of a regular place, despite his obvious worth and vital goals.

Celtic's exhilarating start to the season was clouded by the horrific injury to Henrik Larsson during the UEFA Cup tie in Lyon. The Swedish striker collapsed following a seemingly innocuous challenge, with his left shinbone broken in two places.

Larsson is unlikely to play again this season and the timing of the injury could not have been worse since he had been playing the best football of his career.

Celtic coach John Barnes has taken former England international Ian Wright on loan to cover for the Swede's absence.

Aberdeen's horrendous start to the season finally showed signs of a turn for the better when, in an amazing match at Motherwell, they won their first League game under Ebbe Skovdahl, 6-5.

Alan Fairley

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WALES

Young Matthew makes his mark

CARMARTHEN TOWN are well-deserved leaders of the National League, thanks in part to young Matthew Delicate, signed from local side Castell Newydd Emlyn.

He is only 17, but top scorer in the League with seven goals, and has received much acclaim.

Town have developed a fine youth policy, and have five of their youngsters chasing places in the Welsh Schools squad.

So far the season is the most open for some time, with few sides hitting any consistency. Carmarthen are being chased by Cwmbran Town, who remain the only unbeaten side in the League.

Barry Town, the reigning champions, have lost three matches already. This is unprecedented but as the only professional side in the League, they still are favourites to take the title.

TNS, under the guidance of English Universities coach Andy Cale, seem at last to be living up to their potential. Despite an excellent sponsorship deal, they have not performed as expected over the last two seasons, but now their European spot target seems a real possibility.

At the bottom, Haverfordwest County parted company with manager Mike Ellery and appointed Jason Jones as his replacement.

Inter Cardiff lost team boss Phil Holme, who resigned, and replaced him with the Giles brothers. Paul and David took Barry Town to their first League title back in 1996, so great things will be expected.

There was one shock in the second round of the Welsh Cup, when Connah's Quay Nomads went out on penalties at third-level Guilsfield.

Mark Hughes still awaits a firm offer from the FAW on the national team manager's job.

Mel Thomas

N.IRELAND

McMenemy goes after all

AFTER national team manager Lawrie McMenemy had looked sure to be given a two-year extension to his contract, news broke that he and his assistants, Joe Jordan and Pat Jennings, would not, after all, be putting pen to paper.

Jimmy Nicholl and Sammy McIlroy, presently at Macclesfield, are favourites to succeed McMenemy, who paid the price for some bad results.

Bad break...Larsson goes down injured against Lyon

Managers in the domestic game appear to be falling like autumn leaves. In the Premier League, Kenny Shiels resigned from the Coleraine hot seat with his club third from bottom.

In the First Division, Alan Campbell resigned at Bangor, and was replaced by former Ballymena manager Alan Fraser; at Ards ex-Newry manager Trevor Anderson has taken over from Tommy Cassidy, who left despite the fact that the club are fighting with Omagh Town for the leadership.

Linfield and Glenavon are slugging it out at the top of the Premier League, followed at a distance by Newry Town, Crusaders and Glentoran.

The Glens have signed 30-year-old Ian Gilzean, son of former Scottish international Alan, from Dublin club St Patrick's Athletic.

Roy Kitson

Pro-file Mickael Silvestre

Young Frenchman on a grand tour of Europe

FROM San Siro to Old Trafford. French central defender or left-back Mickael Silvestre may be only 22 but he has already experienced two of football's most glamorous postings.

Silvestre, a member of the French team who won the European youth title in 1996, is very much a child of Bosman. Once upon a time, young players were content to spend the early stages of their careers honing their skills in their own backyard. Now, the likes of Silvestre choose to travel at the earliest opportunity.

When he quit first club Rennes for Inter in summer 1998 he had just 49 French First Division games under his belt. The prospect of fame and fortune in Italy was too enticing, but the short-sightedness of his employers at Rennes also played its part in his decision. Both Silvestre and team-mate Ousmane Dabo had made the transition from youth team to first team and had every right to expect a decent salary from their first professional contract with Rennes. But the terms offered were so derisory that the youngsters refused to sign and Inter nipped in to sign the duo for free under the Bosman ruling.

Rennes insisted the pair still belonged to them – French football statutes stipulate that successful youth scheme graduates automatically sign a four or five-year deal with their parent club – and appealed to FIFA for compensation. Inter countered that as Silvestre and Dabo were out of contract, they were free to join the club of their choice. Eventually, FIFA decided that Inter should pay £1.6million for each player, a judgment that pleased neither club.

Ex-Inter midfield great Sandro Mazzola dubbed Silvestre the "Thuram of the next century". Yet sadly, the youngster was unable to live up to the hype. He started fewer than half his team's Serie A fixtures last season and when he was called upon, it was in an unfamiliar role as a left-sided midfielder. Silvestre is at his best at centre-back. His prospects at Inter looked even bleaker at the start of this season. New boss Marcello Lippi had made it clear that his first-choice back-three were Christian Panucci, Laurent Blanc and Dario Simic.

But in early September, Manchester United offered Silvestre a lifeline. Injuries to defenders meant reinforcements had to be found quickly and the Frenchman found himself heading for Old Trafford. Two days later, he made an impressive Premiership debut at left-back in United's 3-2 victory over Liverpool at Anfield.

"The atmosphere in England is much more relaxed than in Italy," says Silvestre. "At Inter it would be unthinkable to have players eating almost what they like and to have mobile phones ringing at the dinner table. Before a game Alex Ferguson will set out what he expects from us tactically, but his last words are always to express ourselves, to enjoy ourselves. I like that."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Manchester Utd (Eng)
Country France
Born August 9, 1977, in Chambray
Previous clubs Rennes, Internazionale (Ita)
Honours European Under-18 Championship 1996

It's ours...Eusebio and Portuguese FA chairman Gilberto Madail

Bandwagon starts to roll

Alberto da Silva reports on plans for Euro 2004

PORTUGAL

FIFA's decision to entrust Portugal with the organisation of Euro 2004 has been received with exaggerated jubilation in the country. No doubt it was a national triumph over the Spaniards, but it should be kept in proportion. Now everybody seems to be looking at ways to make millions, from the building of motorways linking the tournament cities, to new hotels, from new grounds to rebuilding old ones. And then there are the moneymaking deals being dreamed up by all kinds of speculators.

Euro 2000 will bring new life to the regions where it will be staged – Oporto, Guimaraes and Aveiro in the north, Coimbra and Leiria in the centre, and Lisbon and Faro-Loule in the south.

New grounds will be built at Braga (30,000), Oporto (50,000), Aveiro (30,000), Lisbon (the new Sporting Lisbon ground, 50,000), and Faro-Loule in the Algarve (30,000).

Those already existing and being redeveloped are Guimaraes (34,500), Boavista and Coimbra (both 30,000), and Benfica's Stadium of Light (70,000), the venue for the Final.

The Portuguese campaign to get the tournament was masterminded by a TV personality, Carlos Cruz, who did splendidly. So too did Gilberto Madail, chairman of the Portuguese FA.

Among the others who helped, we must not forget that legendary figure, Eusebio, now so useful as a public relations figure.

Sporting Lisbon have a new manager, Augusto Inacio, formerly of Maritimo. He is now in charge of a bunch of 'lions' with little in the way or roars and claws.

Sporting have sold themselves to a public company, which took the assets while leaving the club with the liabilities. Now a new ground will be built, somewhere, with the old one being sold at a handsome profit.

Meanwhile, the fans are left crying for what they have lost and will never have again.

HOLLAND

Menzo out; Kralj has to struggle

GOALKEEPERS have been headline news in Holland lately, led by Stanley Menzo of Ajax. He was forced to retire because of a knee injury, having returned to the club this season from a spell abroad. Menzo, from Surinam, had started his career at Ajax, where Johan Cruyff transformed him into one of the first 'footballing' keepers long before the back pass was restricted.

He won the Cup-winners Cup in 1987, but was later pushed aside by Edwin Van der Sar. Menzo then went to PSV but switched after an unhappy spell to Belgian club Lierse, where he was a driving force behind their championship triumph of 1997. He then left for Bordeaux, but returned quickly to Lierse, before going back to Ajax as a reserve. He will now get a coaching job at the club.

A real goalkeeping soap is going on at PSV. Before the season began, new coach Eric Gerets announced that his protégé, Ivica Kralj, would be first choice, while Ronald Waterreus was advised to look for a new club. Waterreus, who is not everybody's favourite in Eindhoven, refused a transfer to Salamanca and said he wanted to fight for a first-team place.

Then Kralj was injured and Waterreus replaced him, much to the delight of the fans. However, Kralj recovered and returned, then was again injured shortly afterwards. Now Waterreus is back.

Ajax climbed to the top of the League and have Richard Knopper to thank for much of their success. This young attacking midfielder, brought in for the departed Jari Litmanen, has been the revelation of the season.

He scored nine goals in 10 matches and cast a shadow over Greek striker Nikos Machlas, who has had a difficult time adapting to the Ajax system. However, Machlas now seems to be finding his form.

At last there is something positive to say about the national team, even though they drew again, 2-2. This time, however, the opponents were a full-strength Brazil, while coach Frank Rijkaard had Frank De Boer, Jaap Stam, Michael Reiziger and Edgar Davids unavailable.

This meant a switch to a 4-3-3 formation, and the opportunity for Winston Bogarde to make his first international appearance since breaking an ankle at France 98. Despite his long absence, the Barcelona defender put in a solid performance, giving Rivaldo and Ronaldo no chance at all. Holland could even have won if Patrick Kluivert had not missed a penalty.

Jan Everse has been sacked by Sparta after a disagreement with the board, and becomes the third coach to leave a club this season.

There were mixed performances in European competition. Ajax, Roda JC and Vitesse all reached the second round of the UEFA Cup, while PSV and Willem II were eliminated from the Champions League.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

BELGIUM

Now Leekens can smile again

THE DISMAY Georges Leekens felt at losing his job as Belgium's national coach has turned to quiet satisfaction now that he has succeeded Willy Reynders at Lokeren.

Not only did Lokeren's fortunes in the League gradually improve but then came absolute delight for Leekens with the 1-0 Belgian Cup defeat of Club Brugge, the team he had coached for two seasons at the beginning of the decade.

Brugge, now under Rene Verheyen following the departure of Eric Gerets for PSV, lost to a goal from Congo's Jean-Paul Gauthier Boeka-Lisasi. But Leekens was not gloating. "I can understand the pressure that Rene is under," he said. That pressure increased when Brugge lost their fourth successive game, 1-0 at Genk.

There was at least distinguished company for Brugge. Other Cup victims included Anderlecht, whose 4-1 extra-time defeat by last season's Third Division champions, Ingelmunster, was their first competitive loss under Aime Anthuenis.

Unlike Verheyen, however, Anthuenis had the excuse of a distraction elsewhere. Anderlecht's great priority was their UEFA Cup tie with Bologna, who could have been five goals down by the time they sneaked a last-minute away goal to lose by only 2-1.

Geel, beaten at home on penalties by Third Division Mons – who fielded a side full of former First Division players – were another club to suffer a Cup upset. They also are struggling in the League, propped up only by Beveren, whose Polish coach, Stanley Gzil, has resigned after almost two years in charge.

Wim Van Puymbroeck, Gzil's

assistant, has taken over on a temporary basis.

Nicholas Harling

AUSTRIA

Herzog and Co cruelly denied

THE bitter truth of beating Cyprus 3-1 in the last Euro 2000 qualifying match was that one more point would have put Austria into the play-offs.

How Andy Herzog and Co must rue the tepid home draw with Israel in September 1998. But on the other hand, there were signs, even against nine Cypriots in the latter stages, that, Herzog apart, there is a considerable lack of quality in the team. It is equally clear that the voluble coach, Otto Baric, has much to do before the World Cup qualifying matches begin.

Baric has an improving keeper in Alex Manninger, a classy midfield general in Herzog and a promising striker in Christian Mayrleb. Ivica Vastic is another sure of his place, but he is a better attacking midfielder than libero, where he played against Cyprus, and where his heading deficiency was only too clear. However, Baric has to make some discoveries if the Austrians are to have any chance of reaching the 2002 finals.

Class act...Andy Herzog

Off the field the Austrian FA is under fire and the League's chief sponsor, Frank Stronach, now also president, is calling for the head of chairman Beppo Mauhart.

Sturm Graz's failure to progress in the Champions League should allow them to concentrate on trying to take a third League title. How they need to – a 2-0 defeat at SV Ried was almost the last straw. Cross-town rivals Grazer AK are equally unhappy after going down 1-0 at home to lowly Linz ASK, but there was joy for Rapid after their 2-0 victory in the 219th derby with FK Austria, which ended FK's run of six wins.

This probably saved the job of the much-criticised coach, 'Heri' Weber, who refused to step down after Rapid's UEFA Cup defeats by Inter Bratislava.

Bob Vaughan

REP IRELAND

Bursa date means dinner must wait

THE FAI postponed its annual awards dinner, due to be held on Sunday, November 14, to give its players more time to travel to Turkey for the second leg of their Euro 2000 play-off.

Meanwhile, the Turks set out to make life as difficult as possible for the Irish by staging the game in Bursa, a 90-minute ferry journey from Istanbul.

Athlone Town ended non-League Rockmount's great run in the Eircom League Cup, beating them in the semi-finals. They will meet Bray Wanderers or Derry City in the Final.

Charlie McGeever was the first managerial casualty of the season when he quit struggling Finn Harps, having led them to the FAI Cup Final last season. Defender Gavin Dykes is now caretaker manager.

Cork City striker Pat Morley is certain to overtake former Cork star Donal Leahy in the League's all-time scoring list. Morley, 33, is only one goal away from equalling Leahy's total of 162, but will need a good run to catch Turlough O'Connor's 178. Brendan Bradley's 235 looks safe.

Sean Creedon

LUXEMBOURG

Skipper shuts himself out

UNION LUXEMBOURG skipper, Marc Birsens, is currently refusing to play for his club because of a pay dispute.

Jeunesse Esch are ahead of CS Grevenmacher on goal difference, while at the other end, Aris and Wiltz are still looking for their first wins.

In the Cup, Red Boys lost 3-2 away to Harling-Tarchamps.

Tim Brice

● In LIECHTENSTEIN, Vaduz lead their group with six wins, four draws and 35 goals from 10 games. In contrast, Eschen Mauren are bottom with only a single victory.

Graeme Crawford

Pro-file Bert Konterman

He's just like Stam – and not only on the pitch

THE new Jaap Stam has arrived. Meet Feyenoord central defender Bert Konterman.

They have much in common. Not only are they both outstanding stoppers, but their careers have been strongly linked, too. They played together at PEC Zwolle, Cambuur Leeuwarden and Willem II of Tilburg before their double act was torn apart halfway through the 95-96 season.

With Willem on a hot streak, it was inevitable that some of their key players would attract interest from more prestigious clubs. Stam signed for PSV, while midfielder Jean-Paul Van Gastel moved to Feyenoord. Strangely, though, Konterman was overlooked and would have to wait more than two years to get to a bigger stage. After excelling for Willem throughout the 97-98 season – when the club finished fifth in the First Division and qualified for Europe for the first time since 1963 – he suddenly found himself in demand and was signed by Feyenoord.

Although Konterman had spent a large proportion of his career in midfield, Feyenoord coach Leo Beenhakker had other ideas and put him in central defence along with Van Gastel and Kees Van Wonderen. Konterman was the revelation of the season as his new club surged to the title. His speed, heading ability and tough marking stood out and it was only a matter of time before Frank Rijkaard gave him his international debut.

In the home friendly against Argentina in March, Konterman made his bow as a second-half substitute, earning considerable kudos by shackling the ever-dangerous Gabriel Batistuta.

A handful of caps down the line, Konterman is now Stam's regular understudy and continues to knock steadily on the door for a place in Holland's starting line-up.

Meanwhile, it seems probable that Konterman, the Feyenoord vice-captain, will not be playing in the Dutch League next season. He has admirers at both Arsenal and Real Madrid, and earlier this year a move to Real appeared done and dusted only for 11th-hour complications to kill the deal. Six months ago he was dismissive of talk of a transfer abroad. Now it is a different story. He says he wants to concentrate on Feyenoord, but knows the foreign interest will not diminish and, at 28, it could be his last chance to cash in on his talent.

It is incredible to think that Konterman's career very nearly failed to get started. As a child from Holland's Bible Belt, he initially had misgivings about playing on a Sunday and only after hours of soul-searching with his parents did soccer eventually win. Feyenoord and Holland can only be glad it did.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

Fact file

Club Feyenoord
Country Holland
Born January 14, 1971, in Rouveen
Previous clubs SC Rouveen, PEC Zwolle, Cambuur Leeuwarden, Willem II
International debut March 1999, v Argentina
International caps 6 (0 gls)
Honours Dutch League 1999 (Feyenoord)

Shut out...Rosenborg produced a superb display in Dortmund

That's the style!

Sigurd Odegaard reports on the rise of Norwegian club football

NORWAY

DURING October, Norwegian football experienced a week that showed how its club sides finally have managed to display a good deal of the improvement shown by the national team. For too long they have been struggling to establish themselves at a high level, but, judging from this autumn's results, they have made considerable progress towards this goal.

First Rosenborg went to face German League leaders Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League. Dortmund were expected to demonstrate that they were the better side, but Rosenborg took control from the early stages and goals by Jan Derek Sorensen (2) and Fredrik Winsnes gave them a marvellous victory.

Who said Norwegian football was solely based on solid defensive workmanship? To win 3-0 against Borussia in Dortmund was probably the finest result by a Norwegian club side.

The following day Molde entertained Olympiakos. Having lost all their first three matches, the European new boys were not given much of a chance. Sure enough, they showed all the inexperience of debutants, and despite having most of the play, a naive defence allowed the Greek side to take a two-goal lead.

Coach Erik Brakstad worked some magic in the interval, however, for Andreas Lund scored twice in four minutes, and Daniel Berg Hestad crowned a superb display by scoring the winner. Viking Stavanger concluded a remarkable few days by holding Werder Bremen to a 0-0 draw in Germany in the UEFA Cup.

In between tough Champions League matches, Rosenborg won their eighth successive League title, their eighth Norwegian Cup, and their fourth Double. Sorensen, the hero of Dortmund, scored twice more in the 2-0 Cup Final defeat of Brann Bergen to secure Rosenborg the trophy for a fifth time in the 1990s.

There was drama in the last League round. Lillestrom, the surprise team of the season, fell from second place to fourth after a 2-0 defeat by Molde, who finished second instead. Brann also leapfrogged Lillestrom and finished third by beating Moss in Bergen.

Valerenga, who had struggled all season, managed to win their final match, against Kongsvinger, to secure their place in the division. Kongsvinger and Skeid were relegated and will be replaced by Haugesund and Bryne, both returning to the top flight.

Tromso's Rune Lange scored twice against Stromsgodset in the final match to finish as the League's leading scorer with 23 goals. Amazingly, he missed two penalties in the same game. Molde's Lund took second place, with 21.

DENMARK

Fusion is the fad as clubs disappear

ONE BY ONE the great names of Danish soccer are disappearing from view, their identities lost in the fashion for club mergers.

In Denmark the process occurs under the euphemism of 'fusion', and although the result may be a more sound club in economic terms, the fact is that a famous name is gone.

KB (the oldest team outside the UK), B1903, Ikast and Herning have all left the lists. The latest to disappear is Vejle, where Allan Simonsen started his career. They are joining forces with two teams from nearby towns, Kolding (where Jan Molby began) and Fredericia, to become FC Trekanten.

The new name means 'triangle' and most home matches will be played at Vejle's compact stadium. The new club will play their first game at the start of next season, but there is every possibility that they will not be in the Superliga. Vejle are currently bottom of the table.

Ironically, their place could well be taken by FC Mid-Jutland, created this year by the fusion of Ikast and Herning. They are running away with the First Division at the moment.

The motive behind the mergers, of course, is money. It always is. Vejle have experienced financial problems in trying to compete with richer outfits such as Brondby and FC Copenhagen (themselves a club formed from the merger of KB and B1903.) FC Copenhagen, though, also are struggling this season and are close to the relegation zone.

Vejle's nickname is The Crazy Reds. Will that survive the transplant to FC Trekanten? Maybe just the crazy bit will.

Further fusions cannot be ruled out either. The city of Odense seems ripe for one, while Aarhus Fremad and Skovbakken are set to merge in Aarhus to rival traditional giants AGF.

Another move that appears to have a touch of unreality about it is the plan for Greenland to assume full international soccer status in the next few years. They are being coached on a part-time basis by Sepp Piontek, the former Danish Dynamite boss and once a *World Soccer* Manager of the Year.

A purpose-built grass pitch in the icy capital, Godthaab, would mean possible home matches against Germany, England and the rest. The mind boggles.

Jim Holden

FINLAND

Armstrong leads Haka to another success

KEITH ARMSTRONG, once of Sunderland, is quickly earning a reputation in Finnish football.

Armstrong's FC Haka secured their second consecutive championship with an efficient 1-0 win over their only true challengers, HJK Helsinki, thanks to a first half goal by Dutch forward Martin Reynders.

Released by FC Jokerit, Reynders was a member of an impressive foreign trio at FC Haka, with Hungarian goalkeeper Andras Vilnrotter and Russian forward Valery Popovitch.

Tampere United, coached by Harri Kampman, are the only promoted team. Both Vaasa and FC Lahti managed to hang on to their status during the relegation/promotion play-offs.

National coach Richard Moller-Nielsen had a winning farewell as Finland beat Northern Ireland 4-1 with Liverpool's Sami Hyypia scoring his first international goal.

Pentti Hietanen

SWEDEN

Malmo down at last; Helsingborgs on top

MALMO's relegation from Sweden's top division after 63 years is the biggest upset in recent years.

The club have played in the Allsvenskan continuously since 1936, winning 14 League titles and reaching the 1979 European Cup Final. They started the season as one of the favourites. But coach Roland Andersson was tormented by a huge injury list and was hardly ever able to field a settled side. In the end, the Sky Blues were in a sad plight.

Their southern rivals, Helsingborgs, pipped AIK for the championship by a point after both teams won away on the final day.

Helsingborgs have done well to fend off foreign bids for stopper Andreas Jacobsson and Norwegian forward Arild Stavrum, a target for Austria's Rapid Wien.

AIK's star forward Nebojsa Novakovic was recently granted Swedish citizenship and promptly signed a new two-year contract.

Now the question is: could the 35-year-old, scorer of that brilliant lobbed goal against Barcelona in the Champions League, play a role for

Sweden during next year's European Championship finals? National coach Tommy Soderberg could use Nebo's ideas, especially now that Celtic's Henrik Larsson is out with a long-term injury.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Heroes all the way

OUT but not down sums up the current mood of the national squad, following a sensational performance in Paris.

They pulled back a two-goal deficit against world champions France, before a David Trezeguet goal midway through the second half finally ended their hopes of qualification for Euro 2000.

This performance, arguably the best by an Iceland national team, probably signalled the end for the country's most successful national coach, Gudjon Thordarson, who may yet become the director of football at Stoke City if a takeover bid by a group of Icelandic businessmen is accepted.

Record...Hermann Hreidarsson

The on-off saga of the takeover has added further confusion to the domestic scene, where a bizarre game of musical chairs has seen a change of manager at *seven* of the 10 First Division clubs since the closing weeks of the season.

Former international skipper Atli Edvaldsson, who coached KR to the League and Cup double last season, is the likely replacement for Thordarson if he decides to leave the national side.

Hermann Hreidarsson became the most expensive Icelandic player when Wimbledon paid £2.5million to take him from Brentford.

Rab Christie

SWITZERLAND

Castella pays the penalty

A 2-0 defeat away to FC Zurich was the final straw that led to the dismissal of Servette coach Gerard Castella.

The club's owners, French TV station Canal Plus, had visions of lucrative returns from the Champions League, and were predictably upset when Servette were eliminated in the qualifying rounds by Sturm Graz. They then went out of the UEFA Cup at the hands of Aris Salonika.

The Zurich defeat, Servette's seventh in the League this season, was too much for director-general Patrick Trotignon, who said: "We are a business enterprise. The unsatisfactory results could no longer be tolerated. A change was required to stop the rot."

Castella, 45, who took over in July 1997, is the third coach to be fired this season, after Roger Hegi from Grasshopper and Lugano's Enzo Trossero. He is replaced by Rene Exbrayat, a Frenchman who has coached Le Havre, Martigues and, most recently, Club Africain of Tunisia.

Basle's reign at the top of the table after a 19-year break lasted only one round. A 2-1 defeat by Yverdon allowed long-time leaders St Gallen to regain the top spot with a fluent 3-1 away win against Zurich.

But Basle came back into contention by thrashing St Gallen 4-1, with South African international striker George Koumantarkaris scoring a hat-trick.

On the international front, morale is at a low ebb after failure to qualify for the Euro 2000 play-offs. Despite a 2-0 win against Wales for joint second place with Denmark, the Danes prevailed because of better results in the direct encounters.

In a poll, over 60 per cent voted for coach Gilbert Gress to stay in charge for the 2002 World Cup, but the football hierarchy so far have refused to commit themselves.

Roy Hodgson wants new players for Grasshopper because seven regulars, including captain Mats Gren and midfield star Patrick Muller, are not fully fit. So new president Peter Widmer has signed Celtic defender Tosh McKinlay, and is attempting to lure Slovakian Merian Zeman.

Ivar von Rulach

Pro-file John Jensen

Joker who's doing seriously well

JOHN JENSEN has always been the joker in the dressing-rooms of Danish football – a legacy from a childhood spent in the wings of theatres, where his father works as a technician.

The former Arsenal midfielder, a goalscorer for Denmark when they won the 1992 European Championship Final, used to be relied upon to break the tension in any situation.

But not any more. As the new player-manager of Danish Superliga club Herfolge, 34-year-old Jensen has become the straight man. And how. After 11 matches his team were three points clear at the top of the table, still undefeated after his remarkable start to life as a manager.

"I could hardly believe what had happened," he admits. "But the players have responded so well to my system and my ways." His managerial style was forged by four years as a player at Arsenal. But the man who influenced Jensen most was team-mate David O'Leary, now boss of Leeds, rather than manager George Graham. It was O'Leary's advice Jensen sought when Herfolge approached him to take the reins.

"He gave me some ideas," says Jensen. "One thing I had to do was cut out the joking. It is difficult to take the step from player to manager and keep the respect of the players. I don't tell so many funny stories and jokes now. That had to go."

Herfolge is a village of some 5,000 people in the countryside of Zealand. As Jensen says, you drive in and out within 600 yards.

The team have been dubbed the Wimbledon of Danish football because of their team spirit and against-the-odds survival in the elite. Jensen, though, says he has introduced Arsenal ways. "I learnt so much at Highbury," he adds. "The four years there were the best of my career. There was so much friendship, we were all together. Now I'm doing the same at Herfolge. I took the players to a go-kart race which lasted three hours. I try to do something different every month."

Jensen had his share of troubles in the beginning. Against his former club Brondby he was shown the red card in the dug-out for heckling the officials and had to sit in the stands for the next match. Then, when he went on as a substitute against Viborg, he was sent off within a minute.

Yet the fairytale has continued and he shows no inclination to temper his combative instincts or call time on his own playing career. Jensen says: "I want to carry on as long as I can play at Superliga level. I won't play 90 minutes very often."

And while the go-karting is good, why change a winning formula?

Jim Holden

Fact file

Club Herfolge
Country Denmark
Born May 3, 1965, in Copenhagen
Previous clubs Brondby, Hamburg (Ger), Arsenal (Eng), Brondby
International caps 69 (4 gls)
Honours European Championship 1992; Swedish League 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1996, 1997, 1998; English FA Cup 1993

Violence on the increase

A major disaster looms, writes Hasan Cemali

New appointment...Zdenek Zeman has taken over at Fenerbahce

TURKEY

PASSIONS always run high in Turkish football, but on several occasions in the past few weeks they appear to be running out of control. Recent events have indicated that a disaster along the lines of Heysel or Hillsborough may be in the offing unless players, officials and fans show more sense.

The latest major incident occurred at the Avni Aker stadium in Trabzon, the Black Sea town noted for crowd violence. Trabzonspor beat Fenerbahce 2-0 in a match marred by referee Bulent Uzun's controversial decisions, including his dismissal of two visiting players in the closing stages.

Many missiles were thrown on to the pitch – nothing new in Trabzon – but the worst incident happened after the game had finished. As visiting fans tried to leave they discovered that one of the gates had been locked, and several people were injured as they tried to force a way out.

Despite pleas from club officials, the crowd's ill-temper did not improve, and many windows were broken as people made their way out of the area.

Fenerbahce were involved in more controversy when Ridvan Dilman resigned as coach after only two League games and a brief run in the UEFA Cup, which ended with defeat by MTK Budapest. He has been replaced by a Czech, Zdenek Zeman, once with Roma. He is now trying to fit his players into his favourite 4-3-3 formation, but some are having trouble with his training methods.

Galatasaray, heading the domestic championship with 16 points from seven games, had a surprising result in the Champions League, scoring four times in the second half to beat Hertha 4-1 in Berlin.

Gala's annual general meeting was postponed at short notice after the club announced a plan to sell 42 per cent of their shares to raise cash for a new stadium – and Fenerbahce president Aziz Yldyrym said that he was in the market for them.

The junior national team held Germany to a 1-1 draw and so qualified for the European play-offs which will decide the entrants for next year's Olympics.

GREECE

Co-hosting plan gains support

THE Greek government has voiced its approval for Turkey's plan for the two countries to co-host the 2008 European Championship.

Relations have improved between the two nations after both suffered earthquakes, and now their respective football authorities are to work on the proposals to stage the tournament.

On October 12 Panathinaikos hosted Besiktas in a friendly at the Olympic stadium in Athens in aid of earthquake relief in Turkey. The clubs agreed for a similar game to be played in Istanbul to aid Greek quake victims.

"A game for such a purpose is of great importance...sports bring people closer," said the Turkish ambassador in Athens, Ali Tuygan.

A Panathinaikos statement said: "Because of the quakes, relations between the countries have reached a level that proves Greece and Turkey can co-exist harmoniously in the same area."

On September 2, in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki, a similar charity match was played between PAOK and Galatasaray.

On a darker note, Panionios fans are being blamed for the separate fire-bombing of two cars belonging to players of the lowly First Division team. Police said a car belonging to former Atletico Madrid player Milinko Pantic, a Serbian, was set alight, and 20 minutes later the same fate befell a car belonging to team captain Antonis Sapoutzis.

The incidents came two days after the club had lost 4-1 at home to OFI Crete.

The PAOK team and fans were in mourning after seven people were killed and 33 injured when a double-decker bus carrying supporters collided head-on with a truck near Tempi in northern Greece. They were returning home after seeing their team draw 1-1 against Panathinaikos in Athens.

"It is a black day in the history of the club and a huge tragedy for the PAOK family," said team captain Giorgos Toursounidis.

PAOK later lost 3-1 to cross-town rivals Iraklis, and the club's vice-president, Stratos Gidopoulos, ordered each player to pay a £2,000 fine. "From now on, anyone who enters the pitch representing PAOK must bleed for the team," he said.

Lou Economopoulos

MALTA

Birkirkara eye their first title

BIRKIRKARA have been trying to finish on top of the Maltese table ever since 1950, and have not done it yet. But this could be their year, at last.

Their convincing 2-0 win over defending champions Valletta put them four points clear of second-placed Floriana and indicated that they may well stay there.

The only hitch so far has been the 1-0 defeat by newcomers FC Gozo, but the team reacted at once with a 2-0 win over Rabat and then another against Valletta.

Bulgarian coach Atanas Marinov has made an excellent start, while Chucks Nwoko, back after a three-month suspension, and former Valletta player Drasko Braunovic have been inspirational.

Valletta are a shadow of the team who dominated last season, and veterans Joe Zarb and Joe Camilleri have been released.

International goalkeeper David Cluett, out of the game for three years with a back injury, made a surprise comeback this season with Gozo, and now national coach Josef Ilic has invited him to train with the squad – at the age of 34.

Nenad Veseiji's scoring exploits with Valletta persuaded Ilic to also include him in the squad, now being rebuilt.

Domenico Aquilina

SLOVENIA

A heavy load for Maribor

THE first third of the championship race ended with Maribor Teatanic in the lead but feeling the pace.

After nine successive wins they lost some momentum and could only draw their next two matches. But this still left them with a healthy nine-point margin over Rudar Velenje.

"We are overloaded – it's non-stop football in the Champions League and in our own League," said the coach, Bojan Orasnikar. "But we'll be champions again."

Maribor had caused a surprise when they beat Kyiv Dynamo in Europe. Now several of the players from each side will meet again in the Euro play-offs, when Slovenia face Ukraine.

Victory looks unlikely, but the federation is offering £350 a man, in addition to appearance payments, as an incentive.

Zdravko Reic

Change in mind...Vujadin Boskov

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Faruk says farewell

THE short-lived experiment with Faruk Hadzibegic as national team manager has ended. He had taken over on condition that he could continue to live in Paris, but within four months that proved to be unworkable. "I wouldn't stay for five times the money," he said.

"We don't have the sort of cash he wants," was the reply from the federation. "Even if we did we would not give it to him – not when our nation cannot afford to buy bread."

Ex-Zeljeznicar coach Drago Smajlovic has taken over temporarily. A new boss will be named after the draw for the World Cup qualifiers.

Zdravko Reic

CROATIA

Blazevic out, then in

FAILURE to qualify for the European Championship resulted in national coach Miroslav Blazevic's resignation, but next day he decided to change his mind and carry on.

The final match was a 2-2 draw with Yugoslavia, when only victory would suffice for the Croatians.

The heavy criticism that followed led Blazevic to say that he was being made physically ill by comments from journalists – three in particular – but his contract runs until 2002 and eventually he decided to stay. His pay is enormous by Croatian standards: around £160,000 a year plus bonuses.

In the League, there is continuing ill-feeling between Croatia Zagreb and the rest. Croatia are backed by state president Franjo Tudjman, and are widely thought to benefit in every way possible, from 'well-timed' fixture arrangements to helpful refereeing decisions. Now the directors of Hajduk Split are threatening that they will withdraw their club from the League unless matters change.

Zdravko Reic

YUGOSLAVIA

Boskov looks to youth

ALTHOUGH not quite in great style, the national team achieved their main objective – direct qualification to Euro 2000 – after the 2-2 draw away to Croatia put them top of Group 8.

Yugoslavia showed great fighting spirit, playing with only 10 men for 55 minutes. However, nobody can have been satisfied with the performances against the Irish and Croatians.

National coach Vujadin Boskov announced, right after the Zagreb game, his intention to rejuvenate the squad, mainly with players from the Under-21 side. If he keeps that promise and if Jugovic and Mijatovic hit top form again, Yugoslavia might be able to achieve more than at France 98.

At home, Partizan Belgrade, the League favourites, are struggling. Consequently the title race could well prove to be more exciting than seemed likely at the beginning of the season.

Vladimir Novak

MACEDONIA

Draw causes surprise

A VERY late header by Goran Stavrevski gave Macedonia a surprise draw at home against the Republic of Ireland in the final Euro 2000 qualifier.

The visitors' coach, Mick McCarthy, seemed angry that his team had suffered another depressing result in Skopje, where their 3-2 defeat in the last World Cup qualifiers proved costly. Macedonia boss Dragan Kantlarovski was much happier having suffered defeats in his two previous games.

At home, the title race is building up to a tight finish, with leaders Sloga Jugomagnat showing the most consistent form.

Michel Stojmanovski

All square...Croatia v Yugoslavia

Pro-file Grigoris Georgatos

Italian clubs must beware a Greek making goals

SELLING his talent was a difficult task for Grigoris Georgatos in the early part of his career.

The tiny semi-professional Aetos-Ethnikos Patras club wanted £14,000 for him from Second Division Panahaiki, an amount thought quite high since up until then Georgatos had failed to impress. Yet Panahaiki took the gamble.

Then when First Division Olympiakos showed interest, many people told the club that Georgatos was not worth taking because he 'was not a worker' and 'did not mark well'.

But Olympiakos also took a gamble, and one that paid off – his spell there coincided with three consecutive title wins. Today Georgatos is at Inter, with a contract until June 2003, and he explains why transferring there was a lifelong dream come true: "As a child I was always a supporter of Inter. I remember in 1983 travelling on a ship with Juventus fans who celebrated all night and did not allow me to sleep. From then I was an enemy of that team and a supporter of their rivals.

"It is a very big honour for me that the coach [Marcello Lippi] has chosen me to join his squad," Georgatos adds. In return, Lippi has said: "What do you want me to say about Georgatos? That he is a good player? If he wasn't, we wouldn't have bought him."

The Italian press gave the Greek international a lot of praise after his initial Serie A matches. "He possesses a left foot that can make a lot of things happen," wrote *Corriere Dello Sport*. "He runs, he dribbles, he marks, and of course he crosses the ball. Something that Inter hasn't seen since the time of Roberto Carlos."

Georgatos was born in the Piraeus suburb of Keratsini, and at the age of eight his family moved to Patras. But his love for Olympiakos never faded. "I always wanted to play for that club and become an idol," he says – a feat he accomplished. And what are his targets now? "I want to play well because if Greek players do well abroad, the interest in Greek soccer will continue to grow," he says.

Despite being boosted by such international stars as Giovanni and Zahovic, Olympiakos have had problems this season in the quest for Champions League glory. Is Georgatos the missing piece in the puzzle? "I cannot say that he is not missed from the team," said Olympiakos coach Dusan Bayevic.

But now it's the turn of the Italians to praise him. "If someone had told me that a Greek could solve the problems at Inter, I would have called them crazy," said *Corriere Dello Sport* chief editor Enrico Mianda. "Today I have no problem in admitting that I was the one who was crazy for not believing it."

Lou Economopoulos

Fact file

Club Internazionale (Ita)
Country Greece
Born October 31, 1972, in Piraeus
Previous clubs Aetos-Ethnikos Patras, Panahaiki, Olympiakos
International debut September 1995, v San Marino
International caps 25 (3 gls)
Honours Greek League 1997, 1998, 1999; Greek Cup 1999

Taking his leave...Janusz Wojcik

Wojcik walks as door closes

Dariusz Kurowski on the end of Poland's Euro 2000 hopes

POLAND

NATIONAL coach Janusz Wojcik was so close to being a hero. Instead, he has lost his job and been demoted to the post of 'adviser' to the Sports Minister, Jacek Debski. One point from the final qualifying match for Euro 2000 would have put Poland into the play-offs, but they lost 2-0 away to Sweden.

"We are all very sorry," said Wojcik. "It was an extremely difficult game for us, and we did our best, but we were not good enough."

There is a small consolation prize in sight, however. Despite the Euro failure, 'Football Oscars' are to be awarded for the first time, in 10 categories, to players, coaches – and journalists!

Ziggy Boniek, one of the country's former greats, and now vice-chairman of the FA, proposed the idea.

On the domestic front, Ruch Chorzow led the table with 27 points from 13 unbeaten games, two points ahead of Polonia Warsaw and three ahead of Wisla Krakow. The bottom club, Groclin Grodzisk, won for the first time when beating Widzew Lodz, who are in serious financial troubles. They have been unable to pay for the rebuilding of their stadium, and have been declared bankrupt. All the money taken for the UEFA Cup game against Skonto Riga was impounded by the court, yet Widzew still face huge debts.

RUSSIA

Spartak: four in a row

MOSCOW SPARTAK won the Russian League title with two games to spare, making it four championships in a row and seven out of eight since the break-up of the Soviet Union.

This set a record, for in the days of the USSR no club had won more than three successive championships.

Despite their domestic success, however, Spartak still face severe criticism after finishing only third in their Champions League group.

There was a further blow to the club when coach Oleg Romantsev needed hospital treatment after the home defeat by Bordeaux.

Romantsev was not having a good month, since in his other role, as national coach, he had seen his team eliminated from Euro 2000. A disastrous blunder by goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov – a Spartak player – five minutes from the end of the final qualifier against Ukraine at home gave their rivals the point they needed to go through to the play-offs; a 1-0 win would have seen Russia qualify automatically.

Filimonov is certain to stay with his club, but Romantsev is getting rid of Ilya Tsymbalar, star of Russia's sensational win over France in Paris last June. He has been blacklisted after missing a training session without being able to come up with a good reason.

Victor Gusev

UKRAINE

Lobanovskyi leads from hospital

KYIV DYNAMO coach Valerii Lobanovskyi is carrying out his duties as best he can from a bed in a military hospital in the city, where he has been treated for an irregular heartbeat.

The coach's deputy, Olexiy Mikhailichenko, said: "We're in constant touch by mobile phone. He is well informed about all events at the club, and our players are determined to do even better and not let the chief down."

Lobanovskyi has been known for years as 'the iron colonel' but has now been officially promoted to that rank following a visit to the hospital by the Minister for Interior Affairs, Yury Kravchenko.

On the field, Dynamo were boosted by the return from injury of Valiantsin Bialkevich and Artem Yashkin – now a Ukrainian citizen. They led the League with 28 points from 11 games; Serhii Rebrov topped the scoring charts with nine goals.

Oleg Zadernovsky

CZECH REPUBLIC

Chovanec's perfect 10

CZECH football this winter is riding on a wave of euphoria after Jozef Chovanec's team completed 10 wins out of 10 in the Euro 2000 qualifiers. However, the team made heavy weather of overcoming their final opponents, the Faroes, in front of a full house at the Letna.

The crowd had to wait until Pavel Verbir notched the second goal 10 minutes from the end before they could confidently celebrate the perfect qualifying campaign. Indeed, between then and Jan Koller's opener after 11 minutes, the Faroes had the chance to spoil the show.

Opening strike...Jan Koller

There was cause for celebration on the club front, too, after Sparta qualified for the second phase of the Champions League with a game to spare.

At home, Slavia led the table, with only the season's surprise packet, Ceske Budejovice, challenging.

Bob Vaughan

HUNGARY

A quandary for Bicskei

THE MAGYARS finished a poor fourth in Euro 2000 Group 7 after losing 3-0 to Portugal in Lisbon in the final tie.

The first 15 minutes decided the outcome. Rui Costa gave goalkeeper

Gabor Kiraly no chance from a free-kick, then two minutes later Joao Pinto converted from Figo's corner. Abel Xavier got an almost inevitable third goal just before the hour.

For coach Bertalan Bicskei it is difficult to know where to turn. The professionals based abroad seemingly cannot hack it at international level and there is little new talent appearing in Hungary. The domestic League is poorly supported in every way, and the failure of the Austro-Hungarian bid to host Euro 2004 is another blow.

Bob Vaughan

ROMANIA

Old guard stay on duty

THE ROMANIANS took no chances when they went to Liechtenstein for their final Euro 2000 qualifier, keeping the 120 bottles of champagne they had taken with them on ice until the final whistle.

Before the start, captain Gheorghe Hagi proclaimed that his team must be pragmatic and the Romanians prevented the hosts from having a single shot.

Only when Ioan Ganea made it 3-0 with two goals midway through the second half was there a true reflection of the play, and the win was enough to put them through to the finals automatically.

A surprising appearance by the veteran Ioan Lupescu suggests that coach Victor Piturca has not yet decided to jettison the old guard.

Bob Vaughan

SLOVAKIA

Lack of depth shows

THIRD PLACE in Euro 2000 Group 7 was about par for the course for the team Jozef Adamec had taken over from Jozef Jankech halfway through the qualifying competition.

Slovakia's problem is that after the first 15 or so players are selected, most of them based abroad, the next dozen probables are of considerably lesser quality and not really up to international football. The reduction in the size of the League from next season should at least lead to a concentration of talent.

On the field Inter Bratislava disappointed at home to Nantes in the UEFA Cup, though in the League, a draw at Dunajstreda kept them top, two points ahead of Kosice.

Bob Vaughan

BULGARIA

Stoichkov moves in

WHILE interest in Euro 2000 Group 5 concentrated on the outcome of the Sweden-Poland clash, Bulgaria were entertaining Luxembourg in a largely meaningless contest. This was marked, however, by Hristo Stoichkov's 'appointment' – or is it self-election? – to the post of assistant to national trainer Dimitar Dimitrov.

Bulgaria finished fourth in the group and the remnants of the old guard must now be stood down before World Cup qualifying gets under way.

In the League, Levski remained top after a comfortable home win over Neftohimik, but the CSKA revival continued. The only goal in Blagoevgrad gave the Army club the points against lowly Pirin, and second place in the table.

Lok's 2-1 victory over Lovech meant another setback for the champions, following the loss of their sponsor, exit from the Champions League preliminaries and from the UEFA Cup.

Bob Vaughan

No holding them...Hungary were easily beaten by Portugal

Pro-file Alexei Smertin

Utility man who can lift the gloom for Russia

IN THE WAKE of the failure to qualify for Euro 2000, few Russians will be in a mood to think in terms of consolation prizes. Yet the development of Lokomotiv Moscow utility man Alexei Smertin into a player of genuine international class is undoubtedly one.

A sending-off on his debut for Russia against Iceland last year thankfully did not turn out to be a fatal blow to his international prospects. He looked totally at ease in the heart of defence or in a variety of midfield guises, and went on to earn a regular place with a string of purposeful displays. He surely would have graced the Euro 2000 finals if Russian keeper Alex Filimonov had not presented Ukraine with a late equaliser and thrown away two points in the last qualifying game.

"It was terribly depressing for all of us that we just missed the European finals," says 24-year-old. Smertin. "We were extremely confident of progressing. At worst, we thought we would make the play-offs. So to be pipped by France and Ukraine and left with nothing was so painful.

"We didn't deserve our fate. OK, we made a bad start, losing our first three games. But then we recovered really well and even managed to beat France in Paris. That showed we were getting it right. It's not every day that world champions are beaten at home.

"We can give any team in the world a hard game and it's difficult to accept that we aren't one of the 16 finalists for Euro 2000."

Smertin's great strength is his versatility. He has experience as both a midfield enforcer and playmaker, but as he proved as he marked Nicolas Anelka out of that game in Paris, which Russia won 3-2, his long-term future probably is as a stopper.

"Alexei is the complete footballer," says Vitaly Shevchenko, who used to coach Smertin at Uralan Elista. "He plays with intelligence, has a high workrate and is very tenacious. He can pass, dribble and shoot. He reminds me of the Russian international Victor Onopko, another high-class all-rounder. Smertin will go far."

He already has achieved much in a short time. Only two years ago he was playing in the Russian Second Division with Uralan. Then came the explosion. He played a key role as Uralan gained promotion to the elite in 1997 and finished an impressive seventh in their first year in the top flight. He also gained national team recognition, and finally made a move in late 1998 to Lokomotiv Moscow, helping them to the semi-finals of last season's Cup-winners Cup.

Smertin was again in good form as Lokomotiv finished second to Moscow Spartak in the 1999 championship, but it could be his last Russian campaign, with Spanish, Portuguese and German clubs all keen to sign him.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Lokomotiv Moscow
Country Russia
Born May 1, 1975, in Kalmykia Elista
Previous club Uralan Elista
International debut October 1998, v Iceland
International caps 9 (0 gls)

Edmundo on the edge

Brian Homewood in Rio reports on the Animal's latest antics

BRAZIL

Free to play...Edmundo is still in action pending his appeal hearing

EDMUNDO's ugly past caught up with him as he spent a night on the run and then a night in prison because of a fatal car crash nearly four years ago. His problems with drunken chimpanzees (reported last month) pale in comparison with this case, which may still come back to haunt him.

Three people died when two cars, one driven by Edmundo, rammed into each other at high speed in Rio early one morning back in 1995. Two of the fatalities were in Edmundo's car, but he escaped with cuts and bruises.

The Vasco da Gama forward, now 28, was later charged with manslaughter, but Brazil's judicial system moves at the speed of the average glacier and only got around to dealing with the case in February this year.

Edmundo was found guilty and sentenced to four-and-a-half years in a 'semi-open' regime, under which he would spend only the nights in prison.

His lawyers appealed immediately and he was allowed to remain free until this was heard. Last month, however, another court unanimously upheld the sentence and issued a warrant for the player's arrest. At this point, he vanished.

Edmundo eventually handed himself in two days later, arriving at a police station amid a blaze of publicity. He spent the night in a cell with six other prisoners, all divorcees doing time for failing to pay maintenance costs. "He will be treated like a normal prisoner. Nothing special," said his lawyer.

Lunch next day, shown on national TV, consisted of minced beef, mashed potatoes and rice. His ordeal ended later in the afternoon, when his lawyers got him released pending yet another appeal, which may not be heard until next year.

This was the low point in the life of a player who could have been one of the world's best if he had managed to keep on the straight and narrow. Instead, his career has been a succession of fights, dramas and controversies: smashing a television camera in Ecuador and spending a week under hotel arrest, missing the 1994 World Cup because of his record, getting into a fight on Ipanema beach, insulting a referee with racist remarks after being shown a red card, pushing a hand into another ref's face and sparking a 15-minute, 20-man brawl during a game in Sao Paulo, to name but a few.

The night Edmundo spent in jail probably will be his last. The case now goes to a supreme court in Brasilia, where he stands a good chance of having the sentence turned into community service. Brazil's judicial system is incomprehensible to the general public; many say this is a deliberate policy designed to benefit the rich, the powerful and their lawyers. Defendants can benefit from endless rights of appeal and almost certainly can find a way of getting let off on a technicality – if they are rich enough to pay for a top lawyer.

The footballing fraternity has come out in Edmundo's favour and there has been surprisingly little sympathy for the victims of his recklessness. Even Romario, who has been at odds with Edmundo, rang up to give his old foe moral support. This was the first time the former chums had spoken since Romario decorated one of the toilet doors in his nightclub with a painting of a former model who had a child by Edmundo and has since stung him in court for huge maintenance costs.

Amazingly, the whole incident did not cause Edmundo to miss a single game in Brazil's national championship. Having been released from prison on Thursday night, he was in action two days later and scored a brilliant goal in his team's 3-1 defeat by Coritiba.

By a strange coincidence, on the day that Edmundo's case came up before the beak in Rio, Pele's son Edinho was in court after a road accident in Santos. He was accused of racing another car through the city and causing the death of an elderly motorcyclist, who was struck by the other car. Edinho, who is 29, denied the charge, claiming his only involvement was as a witness because he drove past the scene of the accident just as it had happened. The jury rejected this and found him and the driver of the other vehicle guilty of manslaughter.

Like Edmundo, Edinho was given a 'semi-open' sentence, but for six years. Like Edmundo, his lawyers appealed and he was allowed to go free until the new hearing. And as with Edmundo, the new case could easily take a year to be heard.

Edinho had been regular first-choice keeper for Santos for two years before undergoing an operation for a knee injury in late 1996. He failed to regain his place afterwards and moved last season to Ponte Preta, returned to Santos this year, but abandoned the game in June.

Brazilian footballers always put cars at the top of their shopping lists but the love affair has become bitter recently. Only a month before all of this, Ronaldo had been showing off his new Ferrari. Since the start of the Italian season he has been photographed driving cars, kissing his new girlfriend, wearing a silly hat in Hong Kong, visiting Kosovan children and doing almost anything except playing football. Now he has boasted that he drove from Sao Paulo to Rio, more than 300 miles, in only four hours.

Given that Brazilian players who drive fast cars seem to either end up in court or get them nicked, as happened to Romario and Paulo Nunes recently, Ronaldo may want to think twice before flouting his wealth once again. He already has had one fright when his mean machine skidded off Rio's main racetrack during a much-publicised test drive. Will he heed the warnings?

Eligibility issue casts a shadow

A CLOUD of uncertainty was thrown over the Brazilian championship when Sao Paulo forward Sandro Hiroshi, who has played in the majority of his team's matches, was found to have been ineligible all along.

The case came to light when Botafogo, who lost 6-1 to Sao Paulo early in the championship, lodged an official complaint, which was accepted by Brazil's sporting tribunal.

The result was changed to a 1-0 win for Botafogo and the Sao Paulo scorers that day, who included Hiroshi, had their goals removed.

The new result took Sao Paulo out of the top eight – who qualify for the quarter-finals at the end of the first stage – and pulled Botafogo out of the relegation zone.

Sao Paulo had signed Hiroshi from Rio Branco in July, but the tribunal ruled that he was not Rio Branco's to sell. It said they had 'poached' him from Tocantinopolis, a small club in central Brazil, without paying a fee. Rio Branco argued that Hiroshi had never belonged to Tocantinopolis, because he had never represented them in an official competition. Then a Tocantinopolis official phoned Botafogo to tip them off, and they appealed to the CBF.

With other clubs lodging appeals, the championship was proceeding with the possibility of further changes being made to the table.

As the whole story unravelled, it transpired that Hiroshi's age had changed during his career. As a Tocantinopolis player, his date of birth was registered as being in 1979. Another document dating from his days with Rio Branco gave the same day, but 1979 had been altered to 1980.

This opened up a whole avenue of new implications, because Hiroshi had played for Brazil in the South American Under-17 championship on the basis that he was born in 1980. If he had been born a year earlier, he would have been ineligible.

FIFA were quickly on the phone to CBF's Ricardo Teixeira demanding an explanation, but appeared to accept that CBF had been as surprised as anybody by the revelations.

The rest of the championship continued with the usual plethora of managerial sackings and resignations. By the end of October, Internacional, Gama, Juventude and Botafogo were all on to their third manager of the campaign, which began in late July.

Pro-file Diego Gavilan and Carlos Humberto Paredes

Two for Paraguay to count on

Fact file

DIEGO GAVILAN
Club Cerro Porteno
Born March 1, 1980, in Asuncion
International debut April 1999, v Mexico
International caps 7

Fact file

CARLOS HUMBERTO PAREDES
Club Olimpia
Born July 17, 1976, in Asuncion
International debut March 1998, v Colombia
International caps 16
Honours Paraguayan championship 1997, 1998

FRANCE 98 was the stage on which Paraguay gave their finest ever World Cup performances. They fought their way out of the Group of Death (Nigeria, Spain and Bulgaria) and gave eventual winners France a scare in the second round. Paraguay's, however, was a rearguard action, built upon magnificent defence. The next step is to develop a greater attacking threat. Boy striker Roque Santa Cruz has emerged since the World Cup, and Paraguay have high hopes that a new crop of midfielders will serve as his suppliers. Right-sided attacking midfielder Diego Gavilan already is more than just a hope, despite some early problems. A fall-out with Paraguay's Under-20 coach meant that he was not even selected to go to Nigeria in April for the World Youth Cup. But two months later Gavilan was an undisputed first choice in the senior national team's quest to win the Copa America on home soil.

"I was surprised to be selected," he confirms. But he showed he was not overawed. "I was happy with my performances. And as a team we gave some continuity to our World Cup displays and showed that we are on the right path. We were just unlucky at the vital time." That was when a flu epidemic swept through the team before the quarter-final against Uruguay. "Our previous game had been played in Arctic conditions, and we were also based in a very cold place" – and the chill winds of ill-fortune blew fiercest on the youngster, who fell so sick that he had to miss the game, which Paraguay lost on penalties.

Gavilan's performances on the right flank were good enough to attract interest from abroad. "I spoke to people from both Spain and Italy," he says, "but straight after the Copa America I had a knee operation which put a temporary halt to things. I'm fully recovered now, and so in the New Year there's a chance that I'll be on my way to Europe. Spain is particularly attractive. I think it would suit my style."

Gavilan is gaining versatility, as he explains: "In the Copa America I stayed on the flank, but now for my club I'm starting to switch inside, link up with my team-mates and set up moves for the strikers."

He is a scorer in his own right, too, dangerous both with his powerful right foot and with his head. He featured at wing-back in Paraguay's first match after the Copa America, a friendly against Mexico in Chicago, and the 1-0 win was an excellent start for coach Sergio Markarian, although he is aware that his team can be strengthened. He was unable to call on Carlos Humberto Paredes, who he refers to as "a quality player who is in my plans". But Paredes had only just returned to work after a two-month dispute with his club, Olimpia, caused by his desire for a move abroad. "Football is a constant evolution," he says, "and to stay in Paraguay would be to stagnate. It's time for me to go forward and learn new things."

But while under contract he can only go when Olimpia decide to sell, and after trying to force their hand, Paredes accepted that, at least for a while, he would have to go back to work. He was the fulcrum of Olimpia's midfield in their recent championship-winning seasons, and has been a victim of his all-round ability. "I'm often used more as a marker than a creator," he notes. "But I see myself as a frustrated attacking midfielder." Paredes caught the eye with his versatility when he rubbed shoulders with the world's best at France 98. He was thrown in at the deep end, but made a fine contribution in all four of Paraguay's matches. A year later he was clearly under-used by coach Ever Almeida in the Copa America, a mistake that would not have been made by Paulo Cesar Carpegiani, who took Paraguay to the World Cup.

"Paredes has such ability that he is different from the average Paraguayan midfielder," says Carpegiani. "He's an excellent player, hard-working, intelligent and very competitive, who has lots of skill and can link up with the attack. Any coach would be happy to have him."

Tim Vickery

Big impact...River Plate youngster Pablo Aimar

River beat Boca - at last

ARGENTINA

RIVER PLATE finally managed to beat Boca Juniors at home, for the first time since 1990, and for the first time in five years home or away. Their 2-0 victory left them jointly leading the National A Division opening championship with San Lorenzo, while Boca remained fourth, three points behind.

Veteran midfielder Leonardo Astrada was the only player in action who had appeared in River Plate's last victory over their eternal rivals. The team are playing a three-men attack, with youngsters Javier Saviola (17) and Pablo Aimar (20) alongside Colombian international Juan Angel, who made a slow start but now blends well. This trio made River Plate leading scorers with 24 goals in 11 games.

Defending champions Boca are not the power they were last season but they have had a crop of injuries to key players, while long negotiations with Lazio over the transfer of striker Martin Palermo have unsettled the player, although he is again League top scorer with 12 goals. Now he will move to Italy for £10.5million at the end of the year, though he wanted to leave earlier.

San Lorenzo and Velez Sarsfield, both with young teams, are still in the title hunt, and this seems to be a season for young players.

The surprise is that debt-ridden Racing Club are doing so well, lying in joint sixth place with a 4-6-1 record. The last three presidents are now being prosecuted for fraud and mishandling of funds during their terms of office.

Eric Weil

BOLIVIA

Eight off in one match

INCIDENTS in a clash between champions Blooming and The Strongest resulted in referee Edgar Solis sending off four players from each side – which left them with the minimum of seven to be able to carry on – as well as both coaching staffs.

The Strongest had already qualified for the final round of the closing championship, but Blooming needed a win, which they obtained by 2-0 with veteran striker Victor Hugo Antelo – one of only two men still in action who has scored over 300 goals – getting both.

The fighting between players, club officials and coaching staff lasted almost an hour and left a number of players injured.

The Strongest players meanwhile went on strike again because of non-payment of salaries, and the coach, former Argentina striker Mario Kempes, wants to leave because he is tired of the continuing wrangling.

ROUND-UP

Witch doctors called in

IN BRAZIL...two clubs have turned to witch doctors in an effort to change their fortunes. At Gremio, 14th in the national championship, Roberto Schianiashiki got the players to run over burning coal to make them run faster. At Internacional, next to bottom, Cleon was going to cleanse their pitch, which, he said, had been invaded by negative forces.

Meanwhile work has started on refurbishing Maracana stadium for the World Club Championship in January. This will cost £18million, and will include the installation of 60,000 seats.

IN CHILE...Universidad de Chile had gone 32 League games unbeaten at press time – their last 28 games in the first stage, which they won by 11 points over Universidad Catolica, and four more in the final round being played by the top eight.

Teams took only a quarter of the points gained in the first stage into the final round, while the bottom eight, playing to decide relegation, carried on with all their first-stage points.

Universidad de Chile's only defeat came in their second game of the first stage, against Colo Colo, who now have virtually no chance of retaining their title and recently sacked Brazilian coach, Nelsinho Baptista.

IN URUGUAY...Penarol won the closing championship a week before the end when they beat their traditional rivals, Nacional, 2-1. Now they face Nacional, winners of the opening championship, in a best-of-three series for the title. Nacional have asked for foreign referees to handle the games.

Evergreen playmaker Pablo Bengoechea again had a big hand in the victory, apart from scoring Penarol's first goal. Nacional defender Damian Rodriguez was sent off for a rough tackle – in which he broke a leg – in the 70th minute.

IN PERU...the top-of-the-table clash between Alianza Lima (a point ahead) and Sport Boys, which was likely to decide the closing championship, was suspended after 27 minutes. A firecracker, thrown on to the pitch from the stands, injured Sport Boys defender German Pinillos, who had to be taken to hospital.

Batistuta hits 50

ARGENTINA's leading international scorer, **GABRIEL BATISTUTA**, hit his 50th goal in a 2-1 friendly victory over Colombia in October. However, though he has been a prolific marksman for his country, he has scored only twice since France 98, some 16 months ago.

Goalkeeper **JOSE LUIS CHILAVERT** returned to action with the Paraguayan national team during their short Central American tour in October and confirmed he would be available for World Cup qualifying games. He refused to play in this year's South American Championship in Paraguay because now-exiled 'coup monger' General Oviedo had been put in charge of the organising committee.

Eric Weil

Milestone...Gabriel Batistuta

Bora bows out

Paul Gardner on the latest big-name coach to leave MetroStars

UNITED STATES

Leaving New York...Bora Milutinovic

DO NOT abandon hope all ye who thought the New York/New Jersey MetroStars were incapable of making a sensible decision. Of course, they made it way too late, but they made it. They fired their coach, Bora Milutinovic.

Should have happened months ago, say half way through the season that has just ended. Actually the MLS season continues with the play-offs, but these are not for the MetroStars. Their season, which had been bumping and stuttering along for months, with the team getting worse with each succeeding loss, is well and truly over.

With a record of seven wins and 25 defeats, the RotMasters (to give them their anagrammed and thoroughly apt moniker) failed to make the play-offs. A relief for all, not least their long-suffering fans.

The 7-25 record is appalling enough, but the reality is actually worse: three of those wins came in shoot-outs following games that were drawn after 90 minutes. So Bora's season with the RotMasters produced only four genuine wins in 32 games!

I must amend what I said. Bora has not been fired. What happened was the usual mutual agreement. "After numerous and lengthy discussions," said general manager Charlie Stillitano, "Bora and I have concluded that this decision is in everyone's best interest. We are sad to see Bora leave..."

A statement that contains a wealth of evasion and irony – and some truth. Why should "numerous and lengthy" discussions be necessary before showing the door to a coach who has just posted the worst record in MLS history?

It is only a month or so since the MetroStars owner, Stuart Subotnick, called Bora a terrific coach, and tried to enthral a gathering of unimpressed journalists with tales of how the MetroStars had tried to get the best coaches in the world.

No doubt it was in Bora's interest to get out. His reputation as a mastermind coach has been seriously damaged by his inept handling of the RotMasters. Never did he produce a team that looked like winning, never did he produce a team that played with any recognisable style, never did he produce a team that was worth watching.

The abiding image is of Bora standing on the sideline, clipboard and pencil in hand, explaining some vital point as he sent on yet another sub. Nothing made any difference, not the vital points, not the subs.

The betting is that Stillitano will be the next to go. But that has been the betting for three years now, and the general manager has proved himself to be one of the greatest of soccer's survivors.

Ambitious to a fault, Stillitano has from day one (only four years ago) talked of making the MetroStars into another Milan. Hence the quest for "the world's best coaches", a trail that has led straight to disaster. Only one of the five coaches so far devoured by the MetroStars – Portugal's Carlos Queiroz – left with his reputation intact. The two most prominent coaches – Brazil's World Cup-winning Carlos Alberto Parreira, and now Bora – were total failures, unable to handle...well, what, exactly?

The easy answer is that they found, in the MLS single-entity structure, a system that they didn't understand and couldn't cope with. In particular, they couldn't get used to the idea that the League did all the player recruitment and contract negotiations.

But it is not a theory that stands up. Parreira was allowed to recommend, and bring in, three Brazilian players – none of whom was of any value whatever. Bora's choices have not been much better.

Stillitano is no longer looking for the world's best coaches; now he says that the next coach must be someone who "understands MLS and its operations". His short list includes his current assistant coach, ex-national team player Fernando Clavijo, and three college coaches with no MLS experience, indeed no professional experience.

That is laughable enough – but consider this. The ageing Lothar Matthaus is supposed to arrive next season (though this being the MetroStars, nobody is sure it will happen). In September, when Bora was still boss, Matthaus floated the mischievous idea that he would be the coach of the team: "It could be that Bora gives up – then I could take over."

As Bora, unlamented, leaves, MLS welcomes back someone it desperately needs – Sunil Gulati, stupidly fired in early 1999 by commissioner Doug Logan (who has himself since been fired). However it is not where he should be – in his old job as the League's deputy commissioner – but in charge of the soccer operations of the Kraft family, which owns two MLS clubs, New England Revolution and San Jose Clash.

One of Gulati's first tasks is to find a coach for Revolution. The previous manager, Italian Walter Zenga, proved to be another foreigner who couldn't cope with the American set-up, and was fired just before the end of the season.

MEXICO

Televisa empire nears collapse

AMERICA, the oldest team in Mexico's First Division, the 'jewel in the crown' of Televisa, have had a shakedown. After some three decades of almost continuous dictatorial ruling from the Mexican federation, the TV soccer empire is on the verge of collapse.

Amid the stupor of public and critics alike, Burillo Azcarraga, part-owner of Televisa and veritable dictator of the national team, was forced to resign. One can say he dug his own grave, always abusing the power given to him by the unofficial control of the federation. He made enemies everywhere – even within his own company. Upon leaving, a clean-up occurred: all officials of the America team resigned.

The Paraguayan Hugo Kiesse, former America player and absolute ruler of the national team, who was also in charge of some sort of foreign relations with the Football Confederation (formerly CONCACAF) and CONMEBOL, has gone, too. So has his brother Carlos, who was imposed a year ago as manager of America, and the Uruguayan Edgardo Codesal, who headed the referee's commission. All three had been appointed by Televisa.

The developments were a bombshell because for many years we had believed that nothing the TV network did in Mexican soccer could be questioned. Those who tried to change things before found themselves out of the federation.

Five games before the end of the 1999 Winter League, defending champions Toluca have already reached the play-offs. They have been the best outfit in 1999, thanks to a well-integrated and balanced team. It is a pity they were eliminated from the CONCACAF Champions Cup. However, Necaxa played their three matches intelligently and qualified for the World Club Championship.

This could be the last strong season for the current Necaxa team since their key players are well over 30.

Carlos Ramirez

Sahel set for record sweep

Mark Gleeson reviews the state of play in the three continental club competitions

ETOILE SAHEL are chasing a new set of records as they prepare to play Wydad Casablanca in this year's Confederation of African Football Cup Final.

The Tunisian club are heavily fancied to become the first team to win the trophy twice and at the same time ensure that it goes to a Tunisian club for the third year in a row.

The credentials of the club from the tourist resort city of Sousse were confirmed in the semi-finals, when they edged out Egypt's highly-fancied Zamalek on away goals.

Wydad, who are former African champions, needed a penalty shoot-out to ensure their progress over Canon Yaounde of Cameroon, other former winners of the biggest club prize on the continent.

Sahel won the trophy four years ago and reached the Final again 12 months later, losing narrowly to Kawkab Marrakesh. In 1997, they added the Cup-winners Cup title.

In the semi-final against Zamalek, Sahel took a 2-0 lead in the first leg, with both goals from Brazilian Silva dos Santos. In the return in Cairo, a 3-1 defeat, international midfielder Kaies Ghodhbane scored Sahel's vital away goal which took them through.

Wydad drew 1-1 in Yaounde in the first leg of their semi-final and were held by the same score in the return before winning 6-5 on penalty kicks.

IN THE CUP-WINNERS CUP, Africa Sports of the Ivory Coast are the only side still upholding the hopes of non-Arabic Africa as they seek a second victory in this competition.

The Ivorians, so long in the shadow of their fierce rivals and neighbours ASEC Abidjan, meet Club Africain of Tunisia in the Final and are the only team based south of the Sahara to have reached one of the three club competition finals this year.

Africa Sports needed a penalty shoot-out to beat South Africa's Orlando Pirates in their semi-final and will be the underdogs against Club Africain, who won 4-0 on aggregate against Al Masry of Egypt.

All four of those goals came in the return leg of the tie, in Port Said, after Club had been held to a goalless draw at home.

It is an ominous sign for Africa Sports, who will host the first leg of the Final in Abidjan before travelling to Tunis for the return.

Africa Sports won the first leg of their semi-final tie 3-1 at home but were beaten by the same score in Johannesburg as the Pirates forced the penalty shoot-out.

Zambian Denis Lota scored a hat-trick for the South Africans in the return but ironically was one of three players who then missed a spot-kick.

IN THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, Moroccan champions Raja Casablanca and Tunisia's Esperance needed only a single point from their last remaining group matches to qualify for the Final.

Esperance, who faced Dynamos of Zimbabwe, have looked the most formidable side in the eight-team field, winning their first four matches and then suffering only a 1-0 away loss at defending champions ASEC Abidjan.

Raja were facing Al Ahly at home in their final game. They won the opening meeting, in Cairo, a result that caused the first real shock of this year's League. Al Ahly had started as favourites to win the competition but it was only in their convincing 4-1 win over Shooting Stars of Nigeria in their penultimate match that they finally showed the form that had been expected from them.

Hearts of Oak fell out of the race after a goalless home draw against Raja but are already sure of competing again next year after winning another Ghanaian title.

ROUND-UP

Madjer quits after four months

RABAH MADJER has quit as **ALGERIA** national team coach only four months after being appointed and without taking charge of a game.

Resignation...Rabah Madjer

Madjer, who scored a brilliant European Cup Final goal for FC Porto 12 years ago, announced his resignation on a national television talk show, accusing Sports Minister Mohamed Aziz Derouaz of trying to renege on his contract terms.

He had been given a three-year contract after Algeria had qualified for next year's Nations Cup finals. It was his second spell in charge, the first having ended in dismissal in 1995.

Madjer is now back in the Middle East, taking up a coaching post with Al Soufik in Oman.

In the League in Algeria, Mouloudia Constantine are the early leaders.

Elsewhere in **NORTH AFRICA**, Renaissance Settat are the leaders after seven rounds of the new season in **MOROCCO**, a point ahead of Maghreb Fes.

In **EGYPT**, top side Zamalek have 12 points, one more than Ismailia, but defending champions Al Ahly have several games in hand.

Brazil-born **TUNISIA** international Jose Clayton has been sold by French club Bastia to Greuther Furth of the German Second Division.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

One of Sporting Lisbon's great figures of the past, Hilario da Conceicao, has returned to **MOZAMBIQUE** to help Maxaquene with technical work.

ANGOLA's outgoing football federation president, Armando Machado, has declared himself a candidate for next month's CAF presidential elections in Ghana. He is the only person to stand against incumbent Issa Hayatou of Cameroon. Machado says he wants to improve refereeing standards, stamp out cheating at junior level and improve the African club competitions.

Former Angolan national team coach Ruben Garcia has taken over at Saneamento Rangol in Angola's Girabola. The League is led by Primeiro Agosto, two points ahead of Petro Lobito.

SOUTH AFRICA is mourning the death of veteran coach Budgie Byrne, a former England international who played and coached in the country for more than 30 years. Byrne, a member of the Bafana Bafana technical support staff during their victorious 1996 Nations Cup campaign, was 60, and died after a heart attack.

Two former South African professional footballers, ex-Orlando Pirates captain Nick Seshweni and Kaizer Chiefs striker Ronnie Dube, a **SWAZILAND** international, have died after short illnesses.

ZAMBIA have invited Kalusha Bwalya to join their coaching staff for next month's Nations Cup finals. It is not certain, however, whether he will play or serve as an assistant to coach Ben Bamfuchile.

LESOTHO's championship has been won by Lesotho Defence Force, who beat Arsenal 3-0 in the deciding game. Linare's 3-1 win over Lesotho Mounted Police qualifies them for the Cup-winners Cup next year.

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA have fired veteran Dutch coach Thijs Libregts and asked his compatriot Jo Bonfrere to take over, although talks are going slowly. Libregts left the country in August after complaining he had not been paid. Bonfrere, who took the Under-23 side to the gold medal in Atlanta in

Semi-final defeat...Denis Lota scored a hat-trick but still lost

Fired by Nigeria...Thijs Libregts

1996, previously left the Nigerian job after he had not received his wages.

Anthony Kojo Williams has been elected new president of the Nigerian Football Association. Baldwin Bazuaye, the Nigerian international striker, has left Shooting Stars for Portuguese club Sporting Braga. Also on trial there is Wasiu Ipaye, another former Super Eagle, who has recently played in the Middle East and South Africa.

MALI, who are to host the 2002 Nations Cup finals, have been given a vote of confidence by CAF after an inspection tour led by president Hayatou.

In **GHANA**, Hearts of Oak retained the Premier Division title with a game to spare but lost 1-0 to city rivals Accra Great Olympics in the Osagyefo Cup Final, which marked the 90th birthday of former president Kwame Nkrumah. A penalty in the 68th minute from Laryea Kingston settled the outcome.

TOGO and **BENIN** are bidding to co-host the 2004 African Nations Cup finals and have formally entered the race, with **BOTSWANA** expected to be their only serious opposition.

Wallidan won the **GAMBIA** FA Cup, winning 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw with Mass Sosseh. Ports Authority won the League.

In **IVORY COAST**, Africa Sports have a two-point advantage over defending champions ASEC Abidjan with a handful of games remaining.

Olympic Niamey are the champions in **NIGER**, finishing their six-team Super League with 25 points, three more than JS Tenere.

Mark Gleeson

Pro-file Mutiu Adepoju

'Headmaster' set to be one of Nigeria's key players

THE quietly-spoken footballer known as 'The Headmaster' could well emerge as the key to Nigeria's hopes of winning the African Nations Cup on home soil early next year.

Mutiu Adepoju, whose nickname comes from the fact that many of the goals early in his career came from powerful headers, is close to winning 50 caps. He will bring a wealth of experience to the side after almost a decade in Spain.

He comes from Ibadan, started with the city's Shooting Stars team, and made his name at the World Under-20 Championship in Saudi Arabia 10 years ago, where he was part of the Nigerian team who lost to Portugal in the Final.

Adepoju's showing in Saudi was enough to win a contract with Real Madrid, but he never broke into the senior side. So it was something of a relief when he was able to move away to Racing Santander, helping them to win promotion. Since the 1996-97 season he has been with Real Sociedad, having cost more than £1million, and now is close to 100 League appearances.

At national level, Adepoju was quickly promoted under Clemens Westerhof and made his senior debut at 19. He had begun his career as a striker but Westerhof played a role in moulding him into an intelligent midfielder with subtle ball control and a busy work-rate.

At the 1994 Nations Cup in in Tunisia, Adepoju was a member of the squad who won the title, although he did not play in the Final win over Zambia. Nigeria pulled out of the 1996 event and were suspended from the 1998 finals.

In consolation, there also have been two trips to the World Cup finals. In France last year he had the satisfaction of scoring against Spain. "My goal against Spain meant so many things to me. It came against a country where I had made my mark, and in a game I did not expect to feature in."

Adepoju, a devout Muslim and father of two little girls, also had the honour of captaining his country for the first time, against Burkina Faso in October 1998.

"I have been very fortunate to have gained a lot of experience over the years but there are others as well who can help to move the team forward," he says.

Typical of the modest approach coming from one of the nice guys of African soccer.

Mark Gleeson

Fact file

Club Real Sociedad (Spa)
Country Nigeria
Born December 22, 1970
Previous clubs Femo Scorpions, Shooting Stars, Julius Berger, Real Madrid (Spa), Santander (Spa)
International debut 1990, v Togo
International caps 42 (5 gls)
Honours Nations Cup 1994; Afro-Asian Cup 1995

Double success for Suwon

Michael Church on the early stages of the club competitions

OCTOBER was a month of major success for South Korean side Suwon Bluewings, who won their second successive K-League title while also qualifying for the quarter-finals of the Asian Club Championship.

Suwon, established only in 1996, were forced into a bizarre series of play-off matches to decide the domestic title, despite finishing 22 points clear. In Korea, the round-robin format serves only as an eliminator for the play-offs, for which the top four teams in the final standings qualify.

The set-up becomes truly strange when the play-offs start, with the teams finishing third and fourth meeting in a one-off tie, the winners facing the second-placed team over two legs, and the winners of that playing the first-placed club in a final that could run to three games.

Pusan Daewoo, the 1997 champions, ousted Chunnam Dragons 1-0 in the first play-off game, then beat Puchon SK 1-0 twice to earn the right to face the table-toppers.

Suwon certainly deserved the title, and they made no mistake in the best-of-three finale, winning the first two matches 2-1, the second in sudden-death extra-time thanks to a goal from Sasa Drakulic.

Suwon also cruised into the last eight of the Asian Club Championship, with a 9-4 aggregate win over PSIS of Indonesia followed by a 7-4 victory against The Cong from Vietnam.

The Koreans are joined in the East Asian quarter-final group by Japanese duo Kashima Antlers and defending champions Jubilo Iwata.

Both sides recorded massive wins over opposition from South Asia to further highlight the gap that has developed between the continent's various regions. Jubilo had a bye past the first round, then defeated Mohun Bagan of Calcutta 8-0, a result that forced the Indians to withdraw from the competition rather than face further humiliation.

Kashima, who advanced to the second round after the withdrawal of troubled Chinese champions Dalian Wanda, outdid Jubilo, their great domestic rivals, with a 16-0 trouncing of Maldivian minnows Valencia. This left only one berth in the eastern quarter-final round-robin group stages to be decided, between Sintana of Thailand and Singapore Armed Forces.

In the first round of the western zone, the UAE's Al Wahda lost to Qatar's Al Saad on away goals, while Irtysh of Kazakhstan overcame Uzbek club Pakhtakhor 9-5 on aggregate, winning the first leg 7-0 before losing 5-2 in Tashkent. Irtysh now face Varzob of Tajikistan, who beat Dinamo Bishkek of Kyrgyzstan 5-1.

In the other second round ties, Iranian side Pirouzi face Al Ansar of Lebanon, Yemen's Al Wahda play Al Shorta from Iraq, and Al Saad meet 1991 champions Al Hilal from Saudi Arabia.

In the Asian Cup-winners Cup, Iranians Esteghlal recorded the competition's biggest opening-round win to set up the top tie of the next phase. They hammered Homenmen of Lebanon 15-0 on aggregate, and now face the defending champions, Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia.

Esteghlal are aiming to emulate Saudis Al Hilal, the only team to have done the Cup-winners Cup and the Asian Club Championship double.

Esteghlal won the latter competition back in 1970 under their pre-Islamic Revolution name of Taj, and repeated the feat 20 years later. Al Ittihad, meanwhile, are hoping to become the first team to win the Asian Cup-winners Cup in successive years.

The shock of the first round came when Al Jaish of Syria knocked out 1998 United Arab Emirates champions Al Ain, who have former African Player of the Year Abedi Pele on their books and reached the Asian Club Championship semi-finals last year. Goals from Fadi Afash and Nihad Mustafa in the second leg took the Syrians through.

Cup exit...Abedi Pele and his club Al Ain

In the eastern side of the draw, Japan's Shimizu S-Pulse beat Shanghai Shenhua 2-0 at home after a 0-0 draw in China to reach the quarter-finals. There Shimizu will face Anyang Cheetahs of South Korea. Hong Kong's South China defeated Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam to set up a tie with either Bangkok Bank from Thailand or Surabaya from Indonesia in the east's other quarter-final.

Battle...Jubilo take on Al Ittihad

JAPAN

Jubilo earn Super Cup advantage

JUBILO IWATA eased to a 1-0 victory in the home leg of the Asian Super Cup Final against Al Ittihad of Saudi Arabia, with veteran national team forward Masashi Nakayama, just back from injury, scoring the goal.

The second leg, which will decide who represents Asia at the second World Club Championship (last year's Super Cup winners, Al Nasr of Saudi Arabia, go to the first), was scheduled for November 18 in Jeddah.

"I'm just glad to have scored," said Nakayama. "We have no fears for the return. We have played in front of 120,000 at the Asian Club Championship in Iran and have that to draw on."

Before the Super Cup, Jubilo had been struggling, not least because of Hiroshi Nanami's departure for Venezia. They went into the game with just two wins, one draw and seven defeats in the J.League's second stage. However, they had had a month to reorganise while the League rested for the Olympic qualifiers, and the lay-off appeared to do them good. Jubilo produced a steady, confident display and seldom looked troubled.

Al Ittihad arrived under new coach Brazilian Pedro Perez, who had taken over only two weeks earlier, and came out looking a very different side from the one that beat Chunnam Dragons in April's Cup-winners Cup Final.

Instead of defending deep and counter-attacking, they switched from their accustomed 3-5-2 to an aggressive 4-4-2 and launched a ferocious wave of attacks in the opening 20 minutes.

Jubilo, however, were equal to the pressure and as Al Ittihad slowed down and allowed Jubilo more time on the ball, the Japanese, under captain Toshihiro Hattori, dictated the pace and created the better chances for the rest of the game.

"I'd have liked one more goal," said Jubilo manager Takashi Kuwahara, "but my players were well focused for the whole 90 minutes. It was very satisfying."

With the J.League Division One on holiday, attention was focused on the Division Two promotion race. Kawasaki Frontale, with four games left and an eight-point lead, already look virtually assured of promotion.

FC Tokyo were set to join them but, though still in second place, now have only a one-point lead over Oita Trinita in the wake of four consecutive defeats. Tokyo, suffering from the absence of injured Brazilian striker Amaral, also

Shambles!

The confederation comes in for heavy criticism

OCEANIA'S Football Confederation is encountering a barrage of brickbats over the organisation of the region's first Champions Cup in Fiji. The criticism includes:

1) The inclusion of regional selections from Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in what was a qualifying tournament for the World Club Championship.

2) The resignation of tournament director Johnny Tinsley Lulu (the OFC vice-president) after the executive declined to ratify his recommendation that the drawn game between Central United (New Zealand) and Tafea (Vanuatu) be replayed. Tafea, Lulu's compatriots, had a last-minute goal controversially disallowed and, as a consequence, were eliminated.

3) Security was so inadequate that a Central United player had to be hidden in a hotel at the time his team were playing their semi-final. Police also had to be hurriedly summoned to escort Central players from the pitch at the end of an earlier game.

4) The increase in participating teams from eight to nine less than a week before the opening game and the subsequent rejigging of the tournament format.

5) The total lack of media aids. Not even squad lists were published.

The Australasian soccer media have long scoured the OFC for perceived deficiencies and, following events in Fiji, voices suggesting FIFA allowed the smallest confederation too much autonomy are growing louder.

NEW ZEALAND

THE country's third attempt to establish a national league will begin in March next year, with the advent of a 10-team championship.

Predecessors in 1992 and 1998 foundered due to financial problems.

The new competition will feature the top seven teams from this year's North Island League and the leading three finishers in the South Island. These were Central United, Waitakere City, Napier City Rovers, Mount Wellington, Miramar Rangers, Metro, Manawatu, Dunedin Technical, Nelson Suburbs and Woolston WMC.

FIJI

NADI retained the Inter Districts Championship with a 1-0 victory over Ba in the Final which they hosted at a muddy Prince Charles stadium. Watsoni Voli scored the goal just before half-time.

AUSTRALIA

CARLTON BLUES lead the National League after four games, but only on goal difference from Brisbane Strikers. Both teams have three wins and a draw. Sydney Olympic, Perth Glory and Newcastle Breakers also are unbeaten.

Paul Moon

lost 3-1 on aggregate to Kashima Antlers in the League Cup semi-final.

If Frontale do go up, that will give the J.League another derby – they share the Todoroki Stadium with Verdy Kawasaki. Verdy, however, have other ideas. From 2001 they hope to be in a new 50,000 stadium in Chofu, in which case, they will share with FC Tokyo.

Verdy never liked playing in industrial Kawasaki, and Kawasaki turned its back pretty firmly on them, too. Verdy, once the best-supported team in Japan, have now become one of the worst. Frontale, by contrast, are supported by Fujitsu, Kawasaki's biggest employer.

As for the relegation battle, results of the first and second stages are combined to decide which two teams go down. With five games remaining, Bellmare Hiratsuka are in dire trouble with only 13 points, six adrift of Urawa Reds.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

Record sixth for Saudi

AL SHABAB of Riyadh took Saudi Arabia's Arab Club Championship total to a record six, surpassing the achievements of Iraqi clubs in the 1980s, when they defeated the Syrian outsiders Al Jaish 2-0 in Cairo.

Al Shabab, who won the title for the first time in Qatar in 1992, were at their mercurial best throughout. Evergreen international striker Saeed Al-Owairan was in sparkling form, scoring in the third minute with a half-volley from just inside the 18-yard box before setting up Saudi's hottest property, Abdullah Al-Sheehan, for the second 13 minutes later.

Al Shabab beat Egyptian host club Al Ahly 3-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the semi-final, while Al Jaish, the army side from Damascus, ousted Al Salmiya of Kuwait 2-1.

Michael Church

ASIAN ROUND UP

SAUDI ARABIA

Romario may play in World event

RIYADH's Al Nasr, winners of the 1998 Asian Super Cup, are trying to sign former Brazilian international Romario so that he can face Real Madrid in their inaugural fixture at the World Club Championship which starts in January.

Romario, now 33, is in his native country playing for Flamengo, but Al Nasr say talks are at an advanced stage and they are hopeful of getting him to play in the new event, which is being staged in Brazil.

In April 1998 they signed Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov for two weeks, on a contract close to £135,000, so that he could play in both semi-finals and the Final of the Asian Cup-winners Cup. Al Nasr went on to win the trophy for the first time, beating South Korea's Samsung Bluewings 1-0...the goal coming from Stoichkov.

Al Nasr then won the Asian Super Cup, which enabled them to qualify for the tournament in Brazil.

In **LEBANON**, the part-time southern side Tadamon Tyr are setting the pace, toppling Al Nijmeh from the top in the sixth week of the championship. Akha-Ahly were second, Al Nijmeh third and defending champions Al Ansar seventh.

In **UAE,** League champions Al Wahda and Cup holders Al Ain are virtually qualified for the semi-finals of the Federation Cup, both with 17 points out of 21 in their respective groups with three matches to go.

In **JORDAN,** Al Ramtha retained top spot , having taken 23 points out of 30 approaching the halfway stage of the championship.

In **SYRIA,** Al Wahda of Damascus stayed top despite being held to a home draw by fourth-placed Al Ittihad and are a point clear of Al Karama who suffered their first League defeat by lowly Al Jihad.

Mohamed Chbaro

In demand...Romario

Bangladesh take SAF Games title

FORMER Iraqi World Cup player Samir Sakir inspired Bangladesh to win their first South Asian Federation Games football gold medal for 15 years, when they beat hosts Nepal 1-0 in the Final. Although considered the most formidable side in South Asia, Bangladesh have never before gained regional supremacy despite reaching the Final four times.

This time, buoyed by a morale-boosting win over pre-tournament favourites India in the semi-final, Bangladesh came up with their best performance in the competition.

Alfaz Ahmed scored the goal in the closing moments of the first half.

After the Final, Bangladesh captain and defender Jewel Rana announced his retirement from international football. "This is my greatest achievement and it is time to say goodbye," he said.

In the third-place decider, India came from behind to beat the Maldives 3-1.

Back home in Bangladesh, Victoria Sporting won the First Division title, with Dhanmondi second. Both were promoted to the Premier Division, with East End and Dhaka Wanderers relegated.

Velappan stays

PETER VELAPPAN, chief executive of the Asian Football Confederation, has had his contract extended to take in the World Cup in 2002.

Velappan, who also has the role of chief FIFA co-ordinator for the event, is overhauling the AFC secretariat, and plans to double its present staff of 16.

Azam Mahmood

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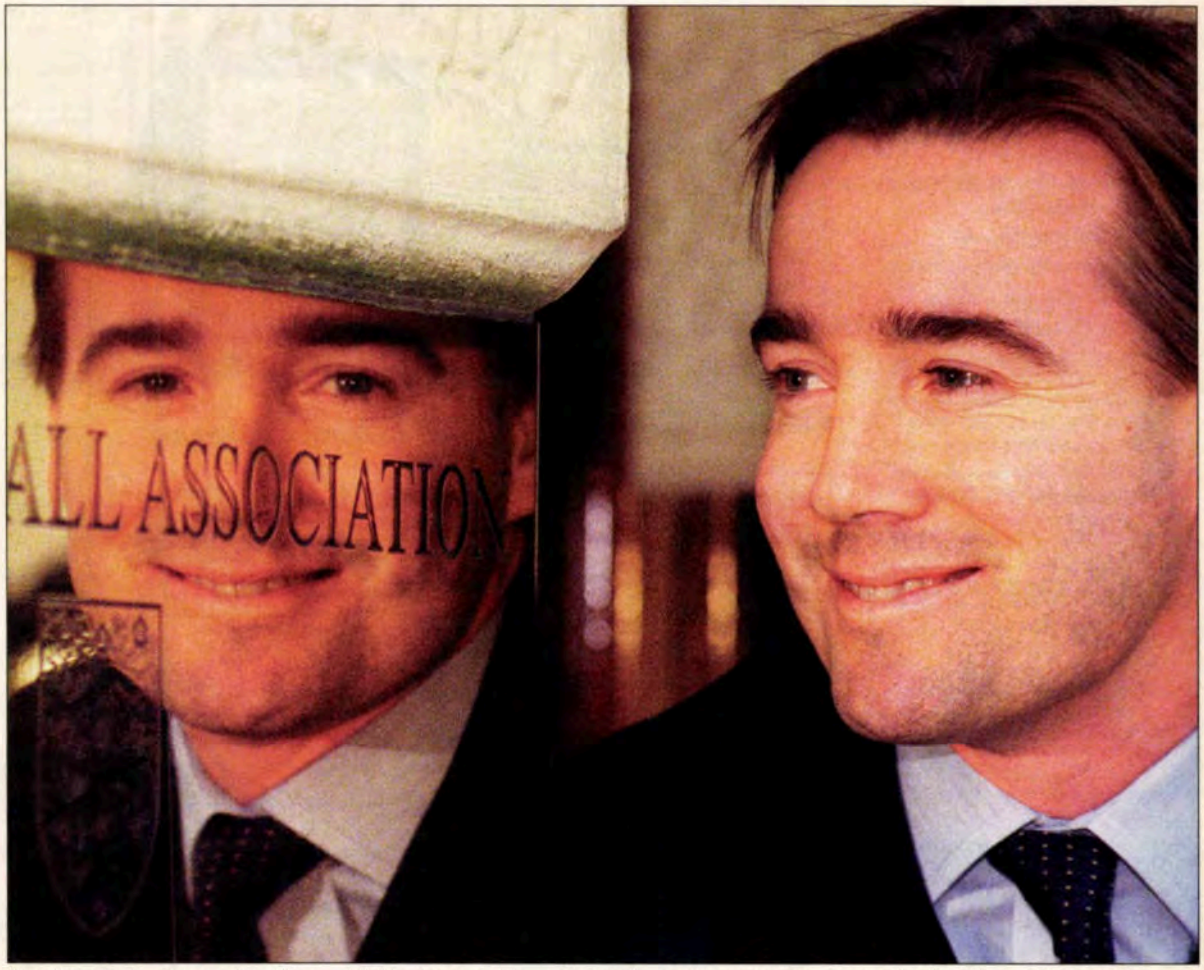
Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'Mr Crozier, I am sure, has many admirable qualities, but like Caesar's wife, the chief executive of the FA must be above suspicion'



Time to reflect...Crozier should have told the FA about his earlier misdemeanour when interviewed for the job of chief executive

Crozier's here – and it's time for him to go

BY THE TIME you read this, I trust and hope that Adam Crozier, appointed new chief executive of the Football Association, will have softly and silently vanished.

I am quite prepared to accept that he is now a man of the utmost probity, integrity and honesty, but the revelation that when working years ago for the *Daily Telegraph* he had in his own word "stupidly" falsified sales figures surely made his position quite untenable.

To err is human, to forgive divine, and I would readily forgive Mr Crozier for his lapse. Less forgivable is the fact that he – "stupidly"? – failed to mention it to the FA when interviewed for the job. The consequence has been deep scepticism and unease among all the journalist colleagues I have spoken to.

Mr Crozier, I am sure, has many admirable qualities, both moral and professional, but like Caesar's wife, the chief executive of the FA must be above suspicion.

Which brings one to another facet of the appointment. Why should it have gone to someone outside football? We do know that soccer has become increasingly commercialised, that in the distant past naivety caused the FA to squander huge sums of money grabbed by the tax authorities. But surely their role, however diluted and impugned by Graham Kelly's unhappy decision to go in with the Premier League clubs, is to try at least to be above the conflict.

Moreover, Crozier, however brilliantly accomplished, comes not only from outside the soccer world but from the world of advertising – once defined by that eminent Freudian Ernest Jones as being essentially the science of confusion.

The job of the advertiser is to believe in his product, which surely raises all kinds of moral questions.

To be a big man at Saatchi and Saatchi no doubt makes one a star of the commercial world. But should football be going down such a road, whatever the demands made by the realities of today? Above all, should the FA?

An early chronicle

IT IS interesting to see a new book published about the visit by Moscow Dynamo to Britain in 1945, though those who assert that it has not been chronicled before in this country are wrong. I gave a chapter to it, 'Snow On Their Boots', way back in 1955 in my book *Soccer Nemesis*.

As a boarding schoolboy, I unfortunately was unable to see any of their matches, but the memories of them do not fade.

Cole joins a short list

THANK GOODNESS for Joe Cole. Michael Owen excitingly apart, Cole is the only major young talent since Paul Gascoigne to emerge from English football, despite the millions of pounds spent on those *soi disant* centres of excellence.

I never grow tired of watching Cole – still barely 18 – whom I saw for the first time in the second leg of last season's FA Youth Cup Final at Upton Park, when West Ham demolished Coventry City.

Cole was accused by some of 'showboating' in that game, and it is true that from time to time he indulged his ball-juggling skills. But so what? As Zero Mostel says in that hilarious film, *The Producers*: "If you've got it, flaunt it, flaunt it!"

And Cole emphatically has got it: in spades. Recently I watched his first full appearance for West Ham, against a tough and resistant Sunderland team. Once more I was colossally impressed by his precocious maturity, the ability to slip away from close-marking opponents, to control the ball with such ease and finesse, and to pass it with such consistent intelligence, short and long.

For the middle period of the game the close marking of Alex Rae subdued Cole, but Rae eventually went off and Cole re-emerged.

Perhaps he may seem a little too good to be true. No Paul Gascoigne, certainly, that blend of brilliance and sheer folly. By stark contrast with Gazza, Cole comes from a solid family background; as indeed does Owen, the other salient young talent, though he's tarnished his pristine image this year with a couple of horrific double-footed tackles. Meanwhile we must fervently wish that his various hamstring injuries can be successfully treated.

Comparisons may be odious, but I nonetheless make another. Some years ago, almost whenever one went to cover a game at Anfield, one heard about a dazzling new young talent: Sammy Lee. Eagerly one waited to see him play…and went on waiting. When would we see this phenomenon?

Ultimately we did, and very good he looked; small, stocky, blond, a neat playmaker, but somehow masking his batteries. What he did he did well but, by contrast with Cole, even at this early age he seldom produced an inspired pass or electrified us with a piece of technical magic.

Major talent…West Ham's Joe Cole

The impression was that, good player though he was, he had been waiting in the wings too long, so that when he did break through, his attitude was almost deferential. The inspired cheek that characterised Gazza from the first, and surely can be seen in Cole, was absent.

So Lee cemented his place in the Liverpool team, selflessly inherited Jimmy Case's job of playing in front of and protecting his right-back, Phil Neal, played a number of times for England, but never quite became the player one hoped for.

Cole, instead, has been given an early opportunity, and shows every sign of taking it. The burden on him will be heavy, not least because such English talent is in pitifully short supply. But there is every hope, as they say in racing circles, he will train on.

Good luck to him. And us.

Unpopular…Tuta, scorer against Bari

A fall-out to follow a sell-out

I SUPPOSE it was inevitable that Joe McGinnis would whip up a storm with his remarkable book, *The Miracle of Castel Di Sangro*.

He tells me that he is now facing criminal charges from the president of the little Abruzzi club, plus the Matarrese family, one of whom is president of Bari, the other the former pompous president of the Italian FA.

McGinnis gives abundant chapter and verse on the way Castel Di Sangro sold the last game of their astonishing 1996-97 season to Bari who, beating them 3-1, went up to Serie A, where they remain.

This put a sad, sour end to McGinnis's season with Castel Di Sangro, a club from a glorified village of no more than 5,000 souls. Their promotion to Serie B in 1995-96 had been something of a miracle in itself, but they ensured their place in the division at the end of the next season in the penultimate match.

This meant that when they went to Bari, they could afford to lose – which they duly did. McGinnis, horrified, overheard the players discussing before the game exactly how they would do so. Their attempts to explain to him that this was a system he did not understand only made it all seem grubbier.

McGinnis already has suffered from the furore. Legal action taken by the Matarrese brothers has induced leading Italian publisher Garzanti to withhold the book.

Bari should count themselves lucky there has been no major investigation by the soccer authorities. You may remember that last season the club were involved in an extraordinary game at Venezia, long before issues of relegation had become pressing.

Bari were drawing when, close to the end, the home side's Brazilian striker, Tuta, scored a winning goal. His team-mates did not congratulate him. Indeed, players from both sides reportedly assailed him in the tunnel.

This game was indeed briefly investigated but, surprise, surprise, no charges were brought.

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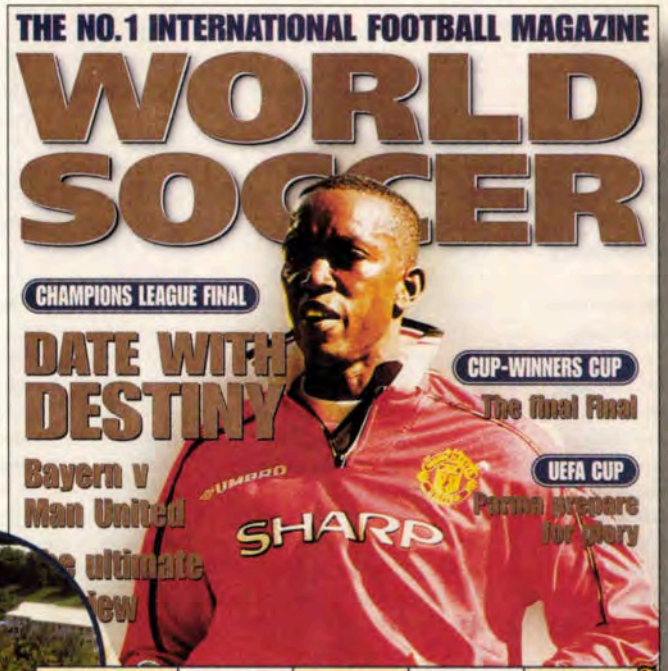

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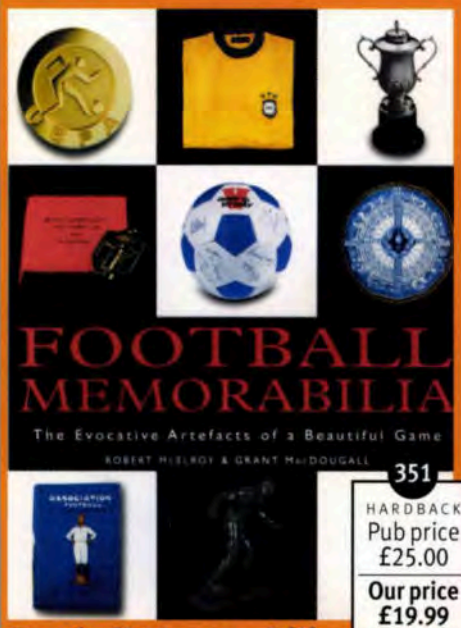

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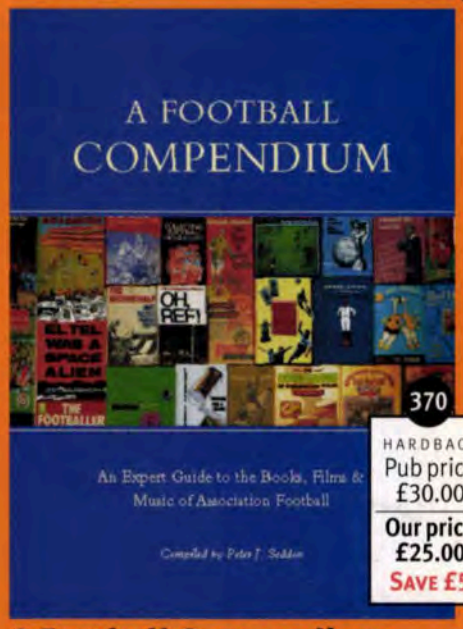

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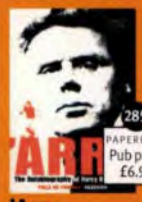

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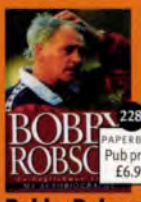

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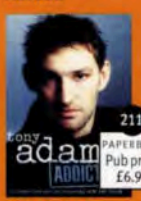

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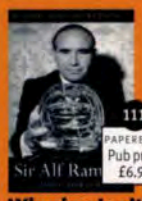

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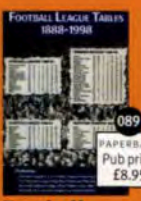

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